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**Washington County
Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

The Walker Family Letters

edited by W. J. Lemke

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W.J. Lemke, Editor**

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118 E. Dickson
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WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The
WALKER FAMILY LETTERS

being the letters
written by or to Judge David Walker,
or exchanged by members of the
Walker family, from 1830 to 1880.

Edited by W. J. Lemke

Published by the
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

1956

INTRODUCTION

According to data compiled by the late Miss Sue H. Walker of Fayetteville in 1929, members of the Washington County (Arkansas) branch of the Walker family are descended from Capt. Thomas Walker, who came to America from Staffordshire, England, about 1650. Certain names that appear frequently in the Walker genealogy — Wythe, Courtney, Kidder, and others — came into the family as the result of marriages in Virginia in colonial times.

The first Walker to come to Washington County was David Walker, who arrived in Fayetteville on October 30, 1830. Most of the letters in this volume were written by him or to him. David Walkers autobiography appears in another book published by the Washington County Historical Society, entitled THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JUDGE DAVID WALKER.

Readers of the current volume, THE WALKER FAMILY LETTERS, will find in the back of this book several pages of notes, to identify the writer and the recipient of each letter and the circumstances under which the letter was written. Also, to make clear the family relationships of the various names that appear in this volume, the following information will be helpful.

David Walker was born February 19, 1806, in Kentucky. As stated above, he arrived in Fayetteville October 30, 1830, but returned to Kentucky in 1833 to be married to Jane Lewis Washington. She was the daughter of Rebecca Washington (Mrs. Whiting Washington), several of whose delightful letters appear in this book.

In 1836, after David Walker had become fairly well established in his law practice here, he brought his parents from Kentucky to Fayetteville. His father was Jacob Wythe Walker (1778-1838). His mother was Nancy Hawkins Walker (1782-1851). The first three letters in this volume were written by Jacob Wythe Walker to his son David before the elder Walkers came to Fayetteville. David Walker also brought his wives mother and aunt here and induced a number of other relatives to come to Arkansas. Thus, his brother, Martin Kidder Walker, settled in Benton County, and another brother, John James Walker, located in Ozark.

The children of Jacob Wythe Walker and Nancy Hawkins Walker married into the following families: Washington, Moore, Carnahan, Pope, Duncan, Wheeler, Van Winkle.

David Walker and Jane Lewis Washington Walker were the parents of six children: Jacob Wythe Walker, killed in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas; Charles Whiting Walker, who married Serena Jernigan; Mary Walker, who married James David Walker (who later became a U.S. Senator); Edmond Hawkins Walker, who married Susan Elizabeth Pegram; Nancy Walker, who married Charles Ratcliff Buckner; and David, who married Roberta Buckner.

Senator J.D. Walker, several of whose letters appear in this book, was born in Kentucky December 13, 1830. He was the son of James Volney Walker and Susan Howard McLean Walker. He came to Fayetteville in 1847 and studied law under Judge David Walker, whose daughter Mary became his wife in 1856.

Other names that appear in THE WALKER FAMILY LETTERS are explained in the "Notes".

The Walker letters published in this volume form a unique and important collection of family correspondence. The letters not only give an intimate picture of an important family (a Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, four officers of the Confederate Army, a United States Senator, two mayors of Fayetteville, prosecuting attorneys and circuit judges) but they also portray the life and customs of a vanished period in our history.

This important contribution to the recorded history of Arkansas and of Washington County would not have been possible if successive generations of the Walkers had not preserved the original letters and other documents.

It was probably Mrs. J. D. Walker, daughter of the pioneer David Walker, who preserved the records of the family's first 30 years. But it was her daughter, Miss Sue H. Walker, who first saw the historical value of the material, added to it, and compiled the information. If I may be pardoned for an intrusion -- I recall a pleasant afternoon in the spring of 1929 when I spent several hours with Miss Sue Walker in looking over her interesting and valuable family records. My great admiration for the family, and especially for Judge David Walker, dates from that occasion.

The present-generation historian and archivist of the Walker family is Wythe Walker of New York. He is custodian of the family records and has made them available to the Washington County Historical Society. A native of Fayetteville, he knows the history of the family in Arkansas thoroughly. But more than that, he has done much research in the family's old home in Kentucky and in the Walkers' colonial period in Virginia.

I would be most ungrateful if I did not express my personal thanks, and the gratitude of every lover of Washington County history, to Wythe Walker for his generous help in putting the Walker family story in print and making this information available not only to us today but to the historians of the future. For over a year we have been writing to each other. He has sent me many registered packages containing priceless originals of the family letters, land patents, commissions and other documents. In return I was able to send him photostatic copies of many David Walker letters from the archives of the Arkansas History Commission at Little Rock and other material.

Wythe Walker and his wife (Frances Stone of another Fayetteville pioneer family) are the parents of two children. To one of them, daughter Prudence, now away at school, the father writes letters in which he quotes whole paragraphs from letters that his great-grandfather David Walker wrote to his daughter when she was away at school in Kentucky. The advice is as good today as when it was written a century ago. To Prudence and her brother Jacob Wythe Walker, the sixth generation to bear that name, will some day come the care and keeping of the family archives. May they show the same devotion to the family heritage that previous generations have shown.

— W. J. Lemke, editor

Fayetteville, Arkansas
January 1956

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The

WALKER FAMILY LETTERS

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

1. Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

Scottsville, Kentucky

22 December, 1830

My Dear Son:

A few days ago I returned from visiting Mr. Brown's lands on Cumberland and Trade Water. Your letter dated Fayetteville A.T. of the 27th Octo. was therefore not received by me until lately and could not have been attended to sooner.

I am pleased to learn that you have located yourself in a healthy and fertile country and that your prospects of success in your profession are good. Much depends on a good commencement now, on a proper improvement of early advantages. From what you have written I cannot well conceive a fairer beginning. Like yourself the place of your residence is but new to the world. That its fortunes and those of my son may daily advance is my hope.

You mention having met with some of my early friends, and their kindness to you on my account. Who they are you do not state. When you write again let me know their names and where they live that I may make to them due acknowledgments.

Your Mother, Sisters and Brothers are all well, my own health rather improves than otherwise. No change has taken place in relation to our circumstances or pursuits. Your Aunt and Uncle, Mr. W. Walker and family, all your friends here I believe are well. We have been alarmed by the smallpox in the neighborhood. It was taken by Mr. Dixon on Longcreek when at Louisville. He came home and communicated the disease to his family, all of whom except himself recovered. One of his neighbors who visited him now has it. Our fears have greatly subsided. Vaccination is relied on as a preventative and most persons have already undergone the operation.

Major Henderson is not at home. You refer me to him for a minute description of Fayetteville and the country round, and request me to send your trunk of books by him when he moves. What that Gentleman's intercourses are, I have no medium of information except common rumor or current remark. From my long acquaintance with him, I cannot depend upon anything which may be said even by himself on that subject. His purposes are unsettled now as I believe they have ever been. Will endeavor, however, to have your books forwarded though I fear it will be no easy matter. I will spare no pains to obtain them a safe conveyance.

The great political parties are taking much pains to recruit and organize their forces against the approaching presidential election. Each party has commenced a convention at Frankfort, resolutions, preambles to resolutions, state arrangements, captains of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens, I have no doubt, have all of them been provided for on either side. I know not, yet like others anticipate the result. Kentucky will again give Jackson the preference. Age and other circumstances portend that I should mingle actively with the parties militant, but every day I become as it were more firmly convinced that the measures of the present administration are right.

In haste to dispatch this letter, I will close it. Let me hear from you often. You are so far off that we cannot expect to receive intelligence of you from persons travelling, indeed there is little intercourse between the two places. Let your letters be regular and we will write to you in the same manner.

Your father

Jacob Walker

(Undated. Probably Spring 1831)

Dear David:

Men of desperate or ruined fortune are found in new countries in greater proportions than in the old. A change may benefit; he who is already ruined can not be worsted. Besides, new countries present the greatest theatre for enterprise. Amongst them are, I doubt not, a few men of sterling worth although unfortunate. Such men when discriminated from the common mass of bankrupts ought to be treated with the most delicate attentions. There are many however who are imposters, have many plausible stories at their tongue's end about losses by security-ships, money paid for this friend and the other, "many moving accidents which have befallen them by flood and field." Depend upon it, my son, nine out of ten of them are rotten at the core.

Take care how you contract intimacy with them, their touch is pollution, their intimacy inevitable ruin. To suppose that he who has acted the part of a villain in New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky or Tennessee will when migrated to Arkansas become an honest man would be to ascribe to your atmosphere an influence which no other has been found to possess. You will see some such from Kentucky. Some probably with whom you have been acquainted, some known to you for honorable men, others not. You are one of the pioneers from this country and when one of your acquaintances follows you there, such weight of character as you have then will be stamped upon them by your intimacy and you are either benefited or injured in consequence as their conduct should be held fair and honorable or the reverse.

Would it not be well, my son, to ask yourself a few plain questions relatively to a new comer of your acquaintance from this country before you admit him into your intimacy, and content yourself with treating him on the footing of any casual acquaintance untill you can answer them satisfactorily to your self dispassionately and soberly considered. Such as the following. Was the character of this man good or bad in Kentucky? What did those who knew him best in Kentucky, men of honor themselves, think of this man? Has or has not his manner and habits been sober, moral and unexceptionable? Did or did he not get fairly and honorably rid of his property there? Was there or not a general belief, nay an almost certainty, that he made a fraudulent conveyance, or by a fraud practised in other disposition of his estate, placed it beyond the reach of his creditors? And in one instance, may you not inquire, did he or did he not violate a most solemn fiduciary trust in squandering the estate of his own infant children whilst acting as their guardian, and to relieve himself from the importunity of his security has he not procured a receipt from his daughter whereby he is released while she, or in the estimation of all I have ever heard speak of it, left penniless.

Seriously reflect upon this business, my son, and if after answering all the above interrogatories yourself, you do not venture to pronounce the person to whom you must know I allude, a High Minded Honorable Man, one who will be an acquisition to the county by his honest honorable deportment, assiduity and industry, then my son by all means receive him, not as a common acquaintance but as a dear and much valued friend. But remember it is easier to form intimacies than honorably to get rid of them. That by introducing him into the circle of your acquaintance you become particeps criminis, knowing him as you do know him, in all deceptions he may practice, and as you will deserve so will you receive a reprobation of all good men. Should such be your conduct when that man arrives with his family from that time I shall no longer anticipate aught for my son, which can be worthy of him, or gratifying to me. I shall now and forever close this subject, inadvertently I hope and not through design. This man's name has been foisted into every letter from you that has met my eye. You know, that I must know, that that man's conduct and general course of life is well known to you. If you approve of it, well be it so. I have already said to you all I ever will say to you on this subject and believe me, my son, for you, not myself have been the foregoing remarks.

We are all well. Your Mother bids me say in your box you will find a satchel in which to put your court papers, that when you look upon it you may sometimes think of her. Helen has sent you two pairs of socks and Martin a dozen quills from the wing of Blue Head. All all of them say to me "Tell Davy I want to see him."

Adieu

Jacob W. Walker

3. Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

By way of
Nashville, Tenn.

Scottsville 3 Feby 1832

My Dear Son.

Yours of the 24th Novr. last came by due course of mail and was received by our family whilst I was engaged in Mr. Brower's business on Cumberland. The pleasing intelligence it conveyed was communicated to me by Mary in a letter a few days afterward at Eddyville. That you have regained your health and strength after a long and severe attack from which we began to have the most gloomy forebodings that you would not recover or had already sunk under, was to us all, need I say, my dear David, information joyous indeed.

It is true that I have not been a regular correspondent. I seldom write but when business requires that I should do so. Age and a multiplicity of cares of one kind or other have engaged so much of my time for a few years that I cannot disengage my thoughts at all times from business and indulge in the uninterrupted contemplation of a few friends that however separated by time and distance, are and ever will remain very dear to me.

Of my last letter you observe "The intelligence which it affords of the preservation and health of your family and my relatives and friends is to me more interesting than fine theory or refined sentiment". This is as it should be, but I am not aware of having attempted either the one or other in my letters to you: Most true it is, that in one or two letters I did attempt to explain, or rather remark for your serious consideration, the operations of certain principles and motives of human action, accompanied by my advice how ever unprofitable it may have been. I was concerned to find that you attributed my remarks and advice to a fear of intimacy between you and an individual at that time suspected to migrate to the section of the country in which you reside. I did fear such an intimacy, and should have greatly lamented it, on your account only, my son.

But that matter is now at rest, tho' I would have you ponder frequently upon the advice I gave you in that letter, and I repeat, that from intercourse, for upward of half a century, with mankind, and from what I know of myself, I have a right to say that Man is the creature of habit. As easy would it be to wash the Ethiope white, or cause the Leopard to loose his spots, as for the unprincipled man on a sudden to become honest, the improvident prudent, or the slothful and inert votary of ease, all his life dependent on the exertions of others, to become energetic and independent. You will have occasion I fear in more instances than one, and to your cost too, to acknowledge the truth of this.

I am glad to find that you have not taken medicine for some time previous to the date of your letter. Temperance moderation and care supercede in a great measure the use of medicine. It is much easier to avoid disease than to restore health. I regret your late illness as being a great drawback to your advancement, but that must be only temporary and your hopes may be soon made up by assiduity and attention to your business. I doubt not you will acquit yourself worthily. Now for Kentucky.

Your Mother and myself wear as well as old people usually do, not entirely free from complaints of one kind or other, but never since you left us afflicted with anything dangerous. Shortly after I wrote last I left home for Cumberland River and did not get back until the 3th Ult. The Winter has been remarkably cold, the earth covered with snow almost from the commencement, and our intercourse is bound and overspread with ice -- the Oldest Settlers in this country say they have never felt such a Winter before. Today the sun shines out, the snow nearly gone and we have the promise of fine weather.

But to return to our family, we have been all helped with health, not one single case of a sickness to alarm us for about a year. The girls stay much at home, now and then they visit their Aunt, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Mulligan and Mrs. Mansfield. They are cheerful and industrious. John and Martin go to school to a Mr. Pirtle who teaches in the Seminary. They have both grown considerably since you left us. Of John's capacity and application you could not have a doubt. I am happy to say that Martin begins to take great interest in the book and although I fear rather slow in apprehension, yet he has a powerful will and having payed a high price for all he shall have acquired, he will I doubt not prize it highly and I hope retain and turn it to account.

We made an excellent corn crop last year, built a stable with a large passage between and the whole covered with a common roof. Our corn and fodder will last us until the next crop comes in without buying. Old Tom and John's Colt are in fine order as are our cattle and stock of every kind. I believe I have never seen the farm appear more prosperous and I doubt not if we have our health and strength we shall by our united exertions be able to support ourselves comfortably. All your friends here and in Logan are well. I expect your uncle Martin is by this time on his way to join you with his family. I have nothing either in the matter of News or Politicks to mention. Write to me frequently. Your late sickness still renders us uneasy about you, tell us as much about yourself and your prospects as you please, the more the better, provided you are well.

Adieu

Jacob W. Walker

4. Rebecca Washington to her daughter, Jane L.W.Walker

Green Ridge, May 28, 1833

My Dear Child,

Although I wrote to you last week I will write now and I intend as long as my health permits, to devote a certain portion of each day to you, in the hope you will follow my example and give me an allotted part of your time also. It is Sunday and we are just done our reading. L.E. (Lucy Elizabeth) has just read Blair's Sermon on Devotion, and a better he never wrote, nor indeed anyone else. I wish when you meet with it (if Mr. W. has not Blair among his books) you would read it and profit by it. The mention of our Sundays reading will remind you of my feeble, but well designing lectures on that day. Alas my dear, my language was feeble indeed, but my heart felt as ardent a desire for your spiritual improvements, as if my tongue had uttered the most deep and profound arguments on the subject. As I have neither understanding nor power of speech to aid you on to Heaven, I can only direct you to one who can, the high and mighty one who reigneth there, and I must also remind you that he has appointed means for obtaining any and every end. You must read and meditate, and endeavour to raise your thoughts with pious petition to your maker for knowledge how to perform your duty to him and your fellow creatures. We should always exert ourselves conscientiously to fill the station, whatever it may be, in which it has pleased our Heavenly Father to place us, in doing which, we in part, show our duty to him.

Whilst you were with me, under my care, I inculcated to the best of my ability the duties of a Daughter and to prepare you for higher, and more responsible station. You have taken one important step in the scale of your existence and become a wife. May you my dear Jane be such a wife as your husband may always rejoice in possessing. Meekness and submission, industry neatness and economy, united with a mild and pleasing temper, are all bright jewels in a matron's crown. By meekness and submission I do not mean a servile senseless kind of obedience, but a cheerful acquiescence in your husband's better judgement, especially on subjects your understanding will tell you he must know better than you, and even in your little domestic managements, always exert yourself to meet his wishes. Minute attentions are ligaments more binding on human affections than half the world are apprised of.

I was glad to observe in your letter to me, that you said you would not try to influence Mr. W. in locating yourselves contrary to what he thought best. You are very right my dear, and yet I do not in the least doubt Mr. W.'s giving full weight to your opinion on any point wherein you could be competent to decide. I was further pleased to find you anticipated pleasure in making improvements in your home before his return from court, that it might please and gratify him. I know from experience how grateful to the heart of a friend such delicate attentions are. Your good and kind Aunt has made me the subject of many such.

Like the Sunday you wrote to me, this is a wet one, and we are all confined to the house, except Charles Henry, who took advantage of a few moments cessation of rain and went to Mr. Jeffries. Lucy Elizabeth is painting and your Aunt Lucy is lying down.

(The letter continues on July 12, 1833)

How little we poor short sighted mortals know of the events of a future day or how we may dispose of our own time. When I commenced this letter it was with a full intention, as I then said, to write a letter every day. I was called off from my writing at that time, for some purpose, I do not now recall what, and shutting my letter up in the book I was writing on, I laid it aside and did not resume it again that day. The next morning I was obliged to go into school after breakfast and during the day your Aunt Lucy was taken sick, and you know neither she nor I can ever write or do anything else when one of the family are sick. She was sick better than a week and very ill indeed part of the time. She had scarcely recovered when Whiting was taken with one of his worst spells. He was delirious several nights, and I believe if he had not been bled, he would have had a brain fever. We had to keep his head bathed with cold water night and day, which I think, with the bleeding, saved him. When he got about again, Mrs. Jeffries little baby was taken sick, and I staid most of my time with her. The poor little thing lived a fortnight after she became ill and then died a perfect skeleton. Three weeks before her death she was as fine a child as I ever saw. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffries both took it very hard, and she is still very dejected.

Your Brother has also been very sick, so you see my dear Jane, if you will make allowances for my weakness of mind, I have a reasonable excuse for not writing. Indeed I entirely forgot my letter for some time, and when I did recollect it, I forgot entirely where I put it. I have just now found it, and with the permission of providence I will try to finish it although it is so much dirty and fly specked at the ends where it stuck out of each end of the book I put it in. I must make all the writing I do serve the purpose for which it was originally intended as my sight is so bad I have to use spectacles for working and reading, as well as writing. I mention this as an apology for not writing to you on cleaner paper.

The whole country is in great alarm about the cholera, but I thank God it has not appeared among us yet. Lexington has suffered very much from it. There were nearly four hundred deaths in three weeks. John, Amy's son, was one. People begin to attend the spring. I had an application from Mr. Beaty for the rent of a room but I was afraid to admit strangers in my house these dangerous times, and therefore did not rent him one. His family is living in the meeting-house. I am afraid there will be a great many people at the spring this summer. The weather is now extremely warm and a large company collected for any length of time, will make it, I am afraid, very unhealthful.

Next week will be the last of my school, and if I can I will make up another directly, but I am afraid I cannot. If my hard fate did not compel me I would never undertake another. I make myself a Slave and derive little or no profit from it. Mine is a hard lot. I must drop to subject of my concerns or (as you would say) my dark hour will overshadow me. Let me turn to what I hope, my beloved child, is the brighter page of your destiny. I am becoming extremely anxious to hear from

you, it is nearly three months since we got your last letter. I sit for hours at a time fancying how you are employed, and how things about you look. I wish you would do me the favor to write to me in journal style, it would be very gratifying to us all. Will Mary return this fall? I feel afraid for her to travel so far during the prevalence of the cholera, try to prevent it if you can. I asked you so many questions in my last letter, which remain unanswered, that it won't do to commence another series in this, although I am strongly tempted to follow the same course. To make all right, you must give me the journal, and write as small and close as you can.

The crops in this neighborhood are remarkably fine, ours only tolerable. Charles Henry thinks he will make 70 or 80 bushels of wheat and corn enough to serve us, some little rye and upwards of five hundred dozen bundles of oats. We have a very good piece of buckwheat which is a good thing as we are all so fond of the cakes. Poor old Jewel is dead, we think a horse of Mr. Wynn's that was in the stable with her kicked her. She lived a few days, and dyed in great agony. I have lost a useful servant in her, and feel like I had lost a kind friend. I am now on foot again, and cannot go out except when I borrow a horse and that is very disagreeable to me, indeed it is painful and mortifying to ask a favor of any kind, and I am often, and unavoidably placed in the humbling situation of being obliged to do it. I often in the bitterness of my feeling ask of my Heavenly Father will it always be so? Alas! I fear it will, I see no prospect of a remedy.

You will think we have led hermits lives when I tell you we have not been from home since you left us, except once to Mr. Drews, and once to Mr. Hawkins. Lucy Elizabeth I believe has been to Mr. Long's once. I have not been to Russellville since January, nor seen any one from there since you were married. I seldom hear from Mr. Wills's.

Louisa has a large school this Session and a good many boarders. Mr. Edwards and his son Franklin have arrived from the South, and there is a report, how true I cannot say, that he and Louisa are to be married. He would be most fortunate in getting such a wife, but my private opinion is, she will not accept him. Your old acquaintance Nimrod is to be married certainly in a few weeks, to one of Mr. Spencer Curd's daughters. I have heard that old Mr. L. is not pleased with it, but why I do not know. There has been some disagreeable difference between the Old Gentleman and Mr. Jeffries, and the latter talks of going to Arkansas. Poor fellow, I am afraid he will not live long any where, his health is very bad and he continues to drink. Mr. Jeffries looks very melancholy. The death of her child, and the rupture between her Father and Husband has made a deep impression on her, and no wonder it does, for it was near being a most awful event. The Physician who was sent for, says if Mr. L. had struck Mr. J. one inch lower on the head, it would have been instant death. The blow was given with the loaded end of a horse whip which was broken in pieces in giving it. How guarded we should be not to give way to passion! Mrs. Jeffries says it has marred her future peace of mind in this world. Old Mrs. Jeffries has been up for some time. She inquired very particularly after you. She is anxious for C.E. to return with her, and I should like her to go, if it was possible, but it is not at all in my power to equip her for

going from home. Her daughter Mrs. Sullivan spent a week at Mr. Jeffries, she came to see us, and we were all very much pleased with her. I saw Mr. Hawkins at the Spring a few evenings since, his health is very much mended. He was at the Allan spring for several weeks which was of great benefit to him. Emily expects to go there next week and Hellen will stay with Mr. H. whilst she is gone. I cannot write any more now my dear child, my eyes ache with looking and my neck with stooping. I will say a little more to you tomorrow, if I do not forget again where I put my letter.

(The letter continues July 13, 1833)

This is certainly one of the warmest days I ever felt. I am almost faint with heat, every thing in nature looks parched. The fowls hang their wings and pant for breath. If we do not have rain soon we shall make very little corn. I am very anxious to hear how your crop and garden are. The steers broke in my garden the other night and eat up every cabbage I had, and it is too late in the season now to have more. We shall have to live this winter on Salsassa. I have more and finer than I ever saw. I wish you, who are so fond of it, had a part.

Your two Brothers have been out treading wheat and look almost melted. Whiting feels himself quite a man. I wish they were both of stronger constitution that labour might not go so hard with them, as I expect it will be the lot of their future lives, but they are as little fitted for it, either in body or mind as any two I ever knew. It may be well for them that they have to labour with their own hands in their youth. I believe that our Heavenly Father wills every thing for the best, and that a particular Providence governs all things.

There has been a revival of Religion in Mount Moria neighborhood. Mr. Parish's two daughters Sally and Jane have both become professors and joined the church, all the younger individuals of Mr. Milam's family and a great many others in that neighborhood. There has also been some Religious excitement in our neighborhood. Mr. Warder has preached here at the meeting house for four or five weeks. He and Mr. Jack Wilson both preached one day. They dined with us and I was surprised to see Louisa Caldwell coming with them. I was too unwell to go to meeting that day, and did not know she had come out untill I saw her at the blocks coming in the yard. One of Mr. Favour's daughters, Nancy, was baptised and one of Mr. Sear's. Matilda Favour, William Simons, Mrs. Jefferson Young and some others are to be baptised next Wednesday at the Bee Lick.

Mr. Warder appears extremely interested about the progress of Religion here, he had preached two or three times somewhere in the neighborhood, for the last four or five weeks. The day that he and Mr. Wilson dined here together, the latter observed to Mr. Warde that he had once fished about the Bee Lick, but had angled to no profit, and hoped he would meet with success, which I think will be the case, indeed has already, for the people are very much roused.

Mr. Wilson stayed all night with us, and entertained us with much edifying and interesting conversation. He pressed us all to visit his family and wished to get Lucy Elizabeth as an Assistant Teacher in a Female School he has at his house, an offer I should have been very glad to accept for her if I had thought her qualified for the place. He then spoke of your cousin Anne Washington and said she was one of the finest and best girls he had ever known, and would make the same proposal to her, he had made to L.E. I told him she was already keeping school some where in her Father's neighbourhood. I hope she may do well for she is worthy of success. Her Brother Warner has become a very steady man, and has given up his habit of general visiting and falling in love every now and then, or if he is guilty of the last fact, he keeps it to himself. William and Fairfax are both quietly pursuing their respective occupations. Martha Maria Edwards and your old friend, Mr. Hickerson Boon, are married, and who else do you think is married? I will give you time to guess whilst I rest my eyes -- -- --.

Knowing you are far from the right mark I must tell -- your excellent friend Louisa Wills, But not to Mr. Edwards as every body expected. I don't believe any person in this country, out of their own family even, ever heard of the gentleman until they were married. It is Mr. Blair from Richmond. He was only out a week before they were united and three days afterward they left Wilton for Virginia. It was on Saturday night, and Sunday Mr. Wills sent to ask us there to hear ----- preach and see Louisa as she would leave them on Wednesday. I never was so surprised in my life, never having heard such an event hinted at. We could not go, and I have not seen any of the family since, therefore my curiosity on the subject is yet ungratified. If I was to judge from an observation of Mrs. Wills's in her note to me, I would say it was unexpected to them. After telling me of L.'s intended departure she says, Will miracles never cease? I do not know why she should rank it among the miracles unless it was a circumstance unlooked for. I would sooner say it was a miracle so fine a girl remained unmarried so long. She is decidedly one of the most estimable women in the circle of my acquaintances. Her husband is a lawyer and a widower with three children. Your brother dined there the day the rest of us were disappointed in going. He says Mr. B. is a very fine looking and handsome man, apparently about thirty and very much like Andrew in person, face and manners. The likeness must be very striking for the Servant who brought our invitation said he was just like Master Andrew. If he makes as good a husband as she I know will make a wife, they will be a fortunate couple. She kept school till the week she was married.

I believe Virginia means to teach the next Session. I have had a letter here from V. to you for a long time, to go by Parson Buckhannon. Anne has sent none yet. L.E. and I began to paint you a couple of pictures, but I am rather afraid we cannot finish them to send by Parson B as the paint I have is too bad to go on with, and I cannot get any better. As soon as I do I will finish them, and have them ready for the first opportunity.

When you write tell me particularly about Mary's prospect of returning. Judging of Mrs. Walker's feelings by my own, she must be getting very anxious to see her. Indeed my dear child, as time rolls on I find a restless desire to see you and hear your voice gaining upon my mind when I think of the distance and probably length of time before we shall see each other, it makes my dark hour darker. If you were not under the protection of such a man as my dear Son I do not think I could bear up under the separation. My confidence in him is unlimited. Dear Children, may God Almighty bless you and bestow on you his richest treasures.

(The letter continues addressed to her son-in-law.)

My Son, I have received your affectionate and loving letters, which have been delayed on the road some four or five months. I am afraid you feel it neglect in not answering them before this time, but you must never have such a thought of me. Be sure if they are not promptly and joyfully replied to, that I have never received them, as in the present case, and I believe if I had not gone to the office myself I should have not got your first letter at all, for I sent frequently and there was none, and when at last my patience was almost worn out I received your last letter. I found from it, that you had written before. I got C.H. to return to the office and ask the Post Master to examine again for the other. He did so but found none. I was determined not to give up what I had so long and anxiously looked for, without another effort and therefore went myself, and as the Post Master is an old acquaintance I asked the favor of him to let me examine among the letters, for I was certain there was one among them which had been overlooked. I did so, and was rewarded for my perseverance by finding your first dated April, which I now thank you for, and will very shortly answer them.

Your Aunt Lucy, Lucy Elizabeth and Charles Henry — all send their affectionate love to you both. The latter says if he wrote to anybody in the world it should be to you and Jane. It is not to be denied he is a lazy fellow on that point. I have not heard from your friends in Scottsville for some time, when I did they were well. I am very anxious to hear from your Election, give us the earliest information, and dear Son remember it is a mother you are writing to, whose heart is open to give a warm reception to every line either of you, my dear children, will send me.

I have been particularly uneasy about you for the two last weeks, on account of the prevalence of the cholera. Hasten to dissipate my fears. The terrible cloud has I hope blown over here, without resting upon us this year, what may be our fate the next, God only knows! May he prepare us for the awful dispensation should it fall upon us! Tell us whether you are permanently established in Fayetteville and what are your plans if you have arranged them in your mind. Does my dear Jane make you a good housewife?

Your Aunt Lucy has been raising fowls again this year and was in fine spirits at her success until a week ago. She went to her henhouse early in the morning to visit her hens and found every one of them dead on the floor with their throats cut, we suppose by a mink. She returned lamenting loudly their fate, and her bad luck. She peeped into her coops where her hens with chickens were, to see how they had fared when the destroyer had passed, and found thirteen of them dead. Let your luck be what it may, it cannot be worse than hers. It has broken her spirit for fowl raising entirely, she says she will give up the business. She is closely engaged in the Loom at this time. She has wove out the fine piece that was in the Loom so long, and you thought was too rotten to weave. It is very pretty cloth, and I am now dressed in it, and like it better than any dress I have. She just put in another piece of 45 yards. She confines herself at home as much as ever. I wish I could prevail on her to go from home sometimes. I do not think she has made a visit since you left us, except to Mr. Jeffries's. Indeed all of us have been confined almost entirely the whole year. I will wait a little longer for Parson Buckhannon and then if he dont come by I must put this letter and Virginia's (the only one that has come to me to send by him) in the Post Office. I shall think quite hard of him if he does not come, and of Mrs. B. in particular, she being as you say, separated from her mother, must know, if she thinks at all about it, what your feelings and mine are, and how gratifying it would be to either to see and talk to any person who had seen the other.

(The letter continues in September 1833)

I have just seen your letter to Louisa Caldwell. Thank God you got well so soon, my dear child. I hope you have no return of sickness. I was amused and pained both at your account of the reports of some of your neighbours, concerning the foolish speeches they put in your mouth. I wonder how people can be so ridiculous, but I believe there are some in all parts of the world. Endeavour my dear to conduct yourself with affability and propriety to all ranks, and they will lay aside such folly after a while, and do you justice. I have thought I had more silly and groundless tales circulated about me, then any retiring and unoffending person ever had. I hope you will not have the same fate, for fate it seems to be, dessert I know 'tis not.

Dear Children farewell. You must be tired reading my cramped lines, and want to get the dirty paper out of your sight. When you write I shant care how cramped or soiled yours may happen to be, so you give me enough. Oh I was very near forgetting to tell you that Louisa Caldwell had professed religion and joined the Cumberland Presbyterians and attends every Camp Meeting within ten or fifteen miles.

Give our affectionate love to dear Mary and tell her I had hoped she would have written to some of us, and will continue to hope so. I believe I mentioned before that her Father and Mother had both been to see me. When she left them they were both in excellent health and spirits.

(The letter continues along the margins.)

At last my fears are confirmed. I have just heard Parson Buckhannon passed through the neighborhood a week ago on his way to Arkansas. My Philosophy has been stringly shaken. How could he do so? You observed in your letter by him, that he was a "Christian after your own heart". Your Aunt Lucy says he is not one after hers -- and I must add, not mine either. God bless you says your affectionate Mother

Rebecca Washington

5. Jane L.W. Walker to her husband, Judge David Walker

Fayetteville, Arkansas Territory,
November 2, 1833

Dear Husband,

Thinking that todays post would be the last that would convey a letter to you, my Dear Husband, I joyfully embrace the opportunity for writing to you, though I fear I have but little of either importance or interest to communicate. Yet how can that be, when I have it to say, that we are all enjoying fine health and heard from our dear friends. On Sunday last I received two letters, one from my old friend Virginia Wills. The other from our beloved mother who mentions the reception of both her sons letters, and her intention of answering them immediately. Through that we also received intelligence of our Allen friends, who were all well. Mama tells me of the marriages of many of my old acquaintances, one of which will I know even surprise you.

This is Saturday and after dining with Mrs. Hawkins I have come over to enjoy the evening at home though entirely alone. Sydney came up yesterday and as he was very anxious, I insisted on Mays returning with him this morning to stay a day or two. I shall send Ervin down Monday evening and she will return the next day. I expect Melvyne with her. We dined with Mrs. Lewis yesterday and assisted her in quilting a quilt which was put up, I believe, in honor of Mr. Pleasant's departure. Generally speaking our company was quite a select one. Mr. Pleasant does not set out until the 16th of this month on account of Mr. Ivans delicate health. I suppose before this letter reaches you, you will have heard of the death of your friend Dr. McCorry. He died this day week at the opening. And not more than 10 minutes after the arrival of his wife who was not sent for until he was thought to be in extreme danger. He was insensible, therefore didnt recognize her or his dear little child. Oh how painfully distressing must it have been even to an uninterested observer, to have witnessed such a scene. It is said he had no hopes of recovery during his illness.

Mr. Denton is in town. Though at times he is very much of an invalid. Dr. Hawkins returned from the river after having visited Van Buren, Fort Smith, and Crawford Court House. But I believe as much undetermined in his own mind where he will live as when he left home.

I received your short letter written from Cane Hill by the post rider on Thursday, also the mule you sent which has already proved of infinite service to me as I have no horse here yet. I sent out to Mr. Kilabrou's for Gray as you desired, but was unsuccessful in getting him. Mr. K. said he had been there but was then out, and that he would put him up and let me know the first time he came up. I intend sending again in a day or two. I also sent Ervin out to Mr. Alexander with six dollars, and paid off your account to Mr. McGannon before he left here.

I have so far had no difficulty at all as it regards fires. Mr. Dawson has been punctual and kept me in wood. If I was not afraid you would question my veracity I would tell you how industrious we have

all grown of late. Suffice it to say for the last ten days, day has never broken without finding us seated at work and until this morning the sun has not risen upon us until we had left the breakfast table and I ascribe that failure to our unwillingness to disturb Sydney who was our guest last night. I think before you come home I must use my endeavors to subdue my appetite which grows more and more ungovernable every day, and I fear will shurely gain the upper hand of me. I expect by the time you get here I should have no difficulty in passing myself upon you for some other personage, for my face grows rounder and more blooming daily.

A public sale of Mr. Wilson's property took place a few days after you left us. Some things sold very high, others extremely low. Although I know I am not capable of judging such matters, still I think the cheapest purchase that was made was for you. That was the stable we now have in use. It brought 15\$, when the set of logs near the Drs. sold for 40.

As it is growing dark I must draw my epistle to a close though not until I beg you to be so prudent that your health may be restored and as great a change made in your appearance as I told you there is in mine. We were weighed. I total I believe 99-3/4 lbs.

Please tender to our friend Mr. Pope my best wishes and respects and receive for yourself dear husband the undivided love of your truly affectionate wife.

Jane L. Walker

P.S. If you can meet with any thread floss in Batesville, please get me a little. I want some and have not been able to get it here or any where else.

6. Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

Scottsville, 16 February 1834

My Dear Son,

Your favor of the 15th December last has not been answered because of the press of business. Indeed I have not written a letter save on business for nearly a year. The last perhaps, I did write was to our dear Mary about this time last year. To her and to Jane say for me that I will avail myself of the first spare moments to write to them both.

Your remark that thought often takes its direction from surrounding objects is correct. There does exist an association of objects and of ideas by which, the presentation of one to the eye, brings with it the recollection of some other absent object. The operation by which the mind is directed to the absent object is not often clearly perceptible, some intermediate link in the chain of thought overlooked leaves all in mystery. The remark that "Man is a creature of habit", is no less true. How careful ought we therefore to be in contracting habits! Your last remark was elicited from seeing the inebriated votaries of Bacchus reeling homeward from their drunken revels in that most appropriate temple of his drunken divinity, a Grocery. You were indulging in a train of thought on this subject thus presented, when your mind "wandered to Kentucky to your relations, and you roused up and commenced" the letter to which this is an answer.

Now I will not for a moment believe that you had any fears of my having become a Sot, or that I would so far forget the sacred duty to my God, to my family, my friends and myself as to suffer the habit of occasionally taking a glass of spirit and water to grow upon me to any unwarrantable or reprehensible excess. Be that as it may, I have the satisfaction to say that on the last anniversary of my birth I commenced the cold water establishment. I have not drunken one gill of ardent spirit since. Your mother, myself and whole family have enrolled our names on the book of the Temperance Society in the village, and have inviolably observed the injunctions and I am confident there are no fears to be indulged in by any member of my family on that account.

Your letter was highly gratifying to us all. All, all of us rejoice in your prosperity, my dear Son, and the more so, because we believe it the just reward of merit. The path before you appears to be bright, the goal to which it leads we most sincerely wish, may answer your most flattering anticipations.

As for me, we are blessed with peace, health and competence, the purchase under the blessings of benign providence, of our united care and unremitted industry directed aright. We have all too much serious business to perform to regret that others have more of this world's pelf or of the consideration which it often buys from the thoughtless and selfish. Our scale of competence is not an enlarged one to be sure and we do not count upon the elegancies, nor indeed do we look into futurity for a time when we may be deprived of some of the sources from whence our present comforts flow and by anticipation of evil impair our present happiness.

To see you grow in wealth, in the consideration of your fellow men, and in all the happiness allowed to mortal men in this world would be a great pleasure to your old parents. We sent you forth as it were from the "Ark" a few years ago penniless, to make the best of your way in the path of fortune and fame in the unknown world and amidst unknown competitors. That you have so far acted well your part on the great theater we believe and rejoice. If it may not be allowed us to be eye witness of your prosperity yet we trust we shall often hear from you, and always as we have hitherto heard as to your prospects of success.

Your Mother, Sisters and Brothers present their love to Jane, Mary and you. Tell Mary that the last favor I did for her when she left me was to whip her, and if she does not come home shortly I will go and whip her home. Seriously, on this subject I know not what to say. How dear she is to us all, how anxious we are all to see her she must know. We too know how difficult it must be to produce for her a proper protector on the road and that you cannot be that protector without a great neglect of business and duty.

Say to Martin and Sydney and their family that their friends here are well.

Adieu

Jacob W. Walker

Sydney's friend here I expect has no funds of his in his hands, as his uncle has enjoined all the debts due him. So far as we know, the injunction has not been dissolved and perhaps the decree may be against him. Of this I know nothing, having nothing to do with the matter pro or con. I thank you however for your offer but advise that you depend not receiving from him this quarter money due you from him.

7. Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

Scottsville, 28 September 1834

My Dear Son,

Your favor of the 23rd ult. merited from me such serious reflection, and a prompt and decisive answer. The first I have already given it, and I hasten to pay the latter.

Your proposition for my removal with my family to Arkansas was received with every sentiment you could have desired.

My affairs, I fear, will require several years to settle and adjust before I can remove. The little property I possess cannot be readily disposed of. Until I am prepared to change my residence, my intention to do so, ought not to be known out of our own family, because my practice will be greatly injured. At present, I have scarcely any competition, no other lawyer resides here, nearly all the business which can be transacted in our courts by one attorney is done by me. You purpose visiting us next Winter. We will then have a consultation, about the ways and means best adapted to carry into effect an object as much my desire and that of us all, as it can be yours.

We are all in good health, as is your Uncle David and Aunt Polly. Your Aunt and Mrs. Mulligan escorted by John are on a visit to their relations in Logan and Todd.

Present me affectionately to Jane and Mary and give the little boy a close hug for

Your Father

Jacob W. Walker

8. Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

Scottsville 24 March 1835

Dear David,

Yours dated 22, post marked 28 February is received. We are gratified with the intelligence, that Jane, You and your little one are well.

That part of your letter, relative to the removal of mechanicks to Fayetteville, shall be attended to. I know, however, of none with whom I have much influence. All I may see, who I shall believe will act worthily their part I will endeavour to persuade to change their residence for Fayetteville.

By Doctor Walker, I wrote to you a long letter on the subject of our migrating to the Territory. I anxiously await an answer. When you write, communicate every thing which you may suppose can facilitate our journey. If we proceed by land, our journey must be tedious and toilsome. If by water, more expensive, more hazardous but more expeditious and less toilsome. By land, the Outfit will take more money, but arrived, our waggon and horses, or oxen, will probably sell for what they cost here. By water the whole expenditure is sunk. I have not yet made known my intention. I have not determined what mode of conveyance we shall adopt. Your letter may hasten that selection, and I shall then offer my little property, upon such terms as will best further our object.

Dr. Walker left here a letter and money for Mrs. Caldwell of Russellville, not liking to risk the money by mail. Anxious to procure the receipt for you, I inclosed your letter to her in an envelope, in which I informed her that I desired to know how I should convey the money and obtain her receipt. I have not yet heard from her.

Your Uncle David and his nephew the Doctor through me, put an end to their law suit. I believe both of them thought he had gained a victory. The one said he thought the money for the youngest daughter of his deceased Brother, the other wanted to apply it to the same purposes. The object being the same, I could not see much to contend for, besides the sum was only two hundred dollars. They ended the matter, by placing the contested sum, into the hands of a Trustee to carry into effect their common purpose. The Doctor is expected to remove to Scottsville with his family this Spring. I believe he has fully settled up and received what was due him. I have the books you wrote for an will send them by the first opportunity.

We are well, receive for Jane, yourself and your son the assurance of affectionate regard from

Your Father

Jacob W. Walker

9. Judge David Walker to his father, Jacob Wythe Walker

Fayetteville 10 April (probably 1835)

My Dear Father.

We received your letter by Sidney who arrived last week in health to his family. Margaret's letter to Jane was received last week and gave us mingled pleasure and uneasiness. I know your constitution so well that to hear of one of those sudden violent attacks arouses all my fears about you. I could not be composed after reading Margaret's letter till I saw Sidney. My dear father, for myself I never formed a wish to survive you. May I but see you and have you near me where I can be present to add something (if possible) to the affectionate attention of your ever watchful Wife. I have seen her in the mind's eye, as I have often in reality, stealing carefully around the couch of an afflicted husband or child. In that untiring watchfulness is my great trust for your preservation until I see you, to the subject of which I will devote the balance of my sheet.

You give in your letter a detail of situations and admonish me not to make a sacrifice of means to hasten your removal, ask of me an impartial statement of my affairs etc. I am pleased to learn that you have paid the Thomas debt. As to your other debts and means of raising money, I would say that so far as your stock farming interests etc. will go towards paying debts it might be well to dispose of them in that way. Household furniture particularly Beds and Cabinet furniture are cash as titles and had best be brought with you. Stock of any kind is plenty. As to servants and your means of bringing them -- they will be of infinite service in this new country where labor is so high and the country new.

As far as my feelings are concerned I wish you not to dispose of your interest in Grandpapa's estate. I will myself advance the amount you can get for it rather than you should, as I know the manner in which that estate has been squandered. I appreciate the feeling which has caused you to be silent. There is a step beyond which common honesty is disregarded and whilst the individuals who have been principal actors have had their extreme wants to plead they should recollect that those wants have been the result of prodigality and indolence shamefully disgraceful to the perpetrators.

No never part with any interest you may have. "My tide has been a fortunate tide in the affairs of men", and never more so than now. I have nearly double the business that I can attend to and if I am blessed with strength and health a few years will place me in affluent circumstances. If you were here to help me I could engage near \$1000 more business than I do and you could soon make amends for any losses you may sustain in getting here. I have not plenty of money at this time but it is because I have engaged my whole means in the purchase of land grants.

I will now according to your request give you a fair statement of my means. My books are posted to the 31st of January 1835. Accounts due

at that date \$4616. Notes due \$1524. Town lots \$500. Land \$1600. My part of large saw and grist mill \$600. 5 head horses \$300. Cattle \$200. Five yoke oxen \$200, two wagons \$125, one Dearborn wagon \$50, 130 head sheep \$350. Hogs \$15. 3 negroes \$1000. Household effects, farming interests \$200. Which added makes the sum of \$11380.

In addition to this I have 5 claims of grants for Land of half sections each which I have bought and which are to be laid on the Mississippi River. These claims may be laid on any land belonging to the United States that have not been disposed of in these purchases. I am in partnership with Judges Johnson & Yell. We are equal partners in purchase and location. The claims will cover 1600 acres of land, every foot of which if set up to the highest bidder would sell for from \$10 to \$20 per acre. The land is only liable to be entered by these claims. They are scarce and only to be found here and there in this upper part of the territory. I have spent many, many hours this Spring in hunting out the old claimants of grants and buying claims. I do not think that I am extravagant in calculating on realizing \$5000 in the worst year from the lands so located. I have given all the money I could raise for these claims, and most of the money that I owe is for them.

I have no merchants accounts nor mechanics accounts of three months standing. I pay all my scores up punctually and all ways have. I have never been sued nor warranted except once I was warranted and told the man that I did not owe anything and proved it and made him pay the costs. That is all the difficulty I have had for any debts. My word is acknowledged by friend and foe to be good for anything I will say and I will sell the coat off my back rather than forfeit my claims to such confidence. Some of the accounts may never be collected, say \$600 of them. Lawyers never take notes here unless for defendings in trespass. The collection of money is fixed by law at ten per cent, hence so many accounts.

I owe about \$1200, most of which must be paid this year. I have given you my means of payment. I do not fear but that they are ample and if I had not one dollar if life last I could make it by Fall. I would advise that you send all freight by water and if you could get a comfortable carriage you might travel by land or by water as you please. I can raise \$500 by Fall. It will be sufficient for all expenses. Steam boat passage in Cabin would be near \$300 and is the only way you could come in comfort by water, by land \$100. Would have expenses at most \$150. I have not room to write more at present. We are all well.

D. Walker

Scottsville, 1 August, 1835

My Dear Son,

I have been engaged in preparations for our removal for some time. Three horses and two wagons, one of them a snug Dearborn, have been purchased.

Your Mother and Sister have been busy, all their little purchases have been made, indeed everything which could be done is accomplished so far as funds would justify. My farm is not yet sold and I know not where to find a purchaser. I have offered it to every person who I thought it would suit, even at the reduced price of \$450 without success. I fear I shall be forced to leave it unsold or sell it for less than one half its value. I must procure, some how or other, three more horses. Debts to the amount of about \$300 are yet unpaid. I will sacrifice my farm for that sum before I will leave them unsettled.

I have the pleasure to say to you that all your relations in Logan and Todd as well as in Scottsville are well.

The alarm of cholera in Russellville is great. The mortality in that village for a few days only has not fallen short of about 100 persons. From the last advices, the inhabitants had nearly deserted the place. In Scottsville there was one case thought to be doubtful. Most persons thought it cholera. The person (F.W.Harris) recovered in a day or to and no new case has occurred.

For myself and family I can say that I am under no great apprehension of danger. Upon the first indications of the disease, I have invariably administered to the afflicted person between 20 and 30 grains of calomel and as yet we have always found the symptoms removed. I am persuaded that taken in time cholera is as easily cured as any other disease. When left to fasten itself firmly on its victim, nothing can prevent mortality.

Early in May I wrote to Mrs. Washington a pressing invitation to remove with us in the Fall, stating the time at which I expected to be prepared, assuring her that I would be much gratified to contribute to her safety, comfort and convenience on the journey. I received for answer that she couldnot remove her family in the fall but was anxious for herself and daughter to go with us on a visit, that she had provided a closed carriage which would be capable of conveying four persons and proposing, if I could, that I should furnish horses and that Nancy and some of the girls should take seats in her carriage. To this proposition I couldonly reply that I had not the funds but if I should procure them by sale of my land or otherwise, I would apprise her of that fact and would be ready to comply with her request upon the earliest notice that she still desired to go with us.

Yesterday I received a letter from Margaret, who is on a visit to Logan and Todd, in which she mentions that two days before she saw Mrs. Washington, that she had been disappointed about the carriage and declined visiting you in the fall.

We do not know well whether to wish you success at the approaching election or not. It is now too late to recede, and however I may think the step unadvised yet as you are before the people we wish you elected although thereby we shall miss you as our guide on the way. Let me hear from you as often as you can or rather, as soon as you can, for I hope to be on the road before more than one or two letters from you can reach us.

I find that you are somewhat mortified that John has not written to you. I think you have not much cause when you reflect that he is a bashful boy, has perhaps never written three letters to any persons and that you have written to almost all the family but him. Give him but something to write about in answer to a letter to him and he will answer your letter. He is in the main a kind hearted boy, although un-hackneyed in the ways of the world. He writes a good hand, and only wants some of Martin's assurance to prompt him to write you or any person on any subject. John is still with his Uncle in the clerk's office and promises to make a good clerk. He wishes to remain until he is master of the business and I know of nothing better he can do.

Your Father,

Jacob W. Walker

11, Jacob Wythe Walker to his son, Judge David Walker

Scottsville August 1835

My Dear Son,

Our circuit term ended on Saturday. I have now closed all my professional business, and made every preparation for removal that I deemed prudent to make before I hear from you. Your letter to Mary dated June is the last received from you. I wrote to you about two weeks ago. I have purchased a waggon carriage and one horse. Let us hear from you shortly. We are all well and eager to be on the road. You have not yet pointed out the mode by which you expected to forward the necessary fund.

I have not yet sold my farm and fear I cannot sell it unless for less than half its value.

Tell Jane this is a letter on business and I have no time for more than to say that she as well as your little one are objects of my affectionate regard.

Your father

Jacob W. Walker

12. Judge David Walker to his wife, Jane L.W. Walker

Little Rock Sunday evening 8th

My Dear Jane,

Since I wrote, we had a most splendid affair of the inauguration of the Governor. 24 rounds of Cannon, a band of Music, Clergy, Masons, Odd Fellows, Citizens, Soldiers, Ladies etc. etc. It is all over.

I am just from meeting the Bishop, James Lewis Waugh. Delivered a most eloquent and impressive sermon. Never surpassed in my hearing. In the volume which I send you, you will find a story, "The Ruined Family". Read it, it was my morning recreation. It sentiments stimulated me to new resolves, of temperance and retirement from the haunts of Ambition and Vice.

Thus far since the Legislature met I have been to no places of Amusement, nor have I been abroad at any time, only to meetings, save to the Theater one night, the night I reached here. I expect to no more probably during life.

The character of a most charming Lady was sustained to admiration. I felt joyed in the exhibition of Grace, Beauty, and Innocence but alas how soon was my high admiration changed to mingled pity and contempt. That charming Lady came out again in the character and dress of an abandoned dissolute youth, and sustained the part to the great amusement of many -- not to me.

Mr. Leeper and Charles speak of returning home this week. I will write again soon.

With the utmost sincere and affectionate regard, I am

Yours,

D. Walker

(Postscript)

Dear Wife,

I am hurried by the unexpected departure of Mr. Leeper and have no time to write at length. I send 2 dollars. One for Mary and one for Jane. 2 whistles, one for White, one for Wythe, 2 cakes soap, one for Edward, one for Walker. One pine apple for Mama, one book for you.

I will write soon

Yours affectionately,

D. Walker

13. Judge David Walker to his father, Jacob Wythe Walker

Fayetteville 9th August

My Dear Father,

An animated Electioneering Campaign has engrossed so much of my time as to prevent my writing for the last two weeks. The race is run and out of 15 candidates I led the field. This County sends five members. It is with much pleasure that I announce my success. I offer my uniform success (weighed down with Jackson's overwhelming popularity and the dominant party here as I have been) as the best evidence I can offer of my perseverance and industry. But enough of this.

I expected to have enclosed you some \$200 by this mail but in such a canvass as mine there has been no time left to collect. I set out in the morning to Crawford court where I have some \$500 that I expect to collect and will write you by the next mail inclosing you money. If any accident should happen that it does not reach you in time, show this letter to Uncle David, tell him that I make no pledge lightly. That if he will advance you the money or endorse for you for any amount you may need, I will send it in several packages for fear of accidents. I hope though there is no failure in the mail that it will reach you in time.

I shall be at Little Rock 1st Monday in October. Will leave there first November for my circuit, will be at home first December when you will I trust arrive. You will best travel by Golconda and Jonesborough Ill., Jackson Mo. and from there by Old Delaware Town in Mo. to Fayetteville A.T. The balance that Sidney is due me is \$66.28. If he will pay it in a horse, take it. Tell him the notes he left with Marshall and myself are worth nothing of account.

We are all well. Dr. Hawkins has moved to Carroll County, distant 65 miles. The country is very healthy as much so as I ever saw any country. I have a great deal of writing to do and have written in much haste. You must excuse my scattering hand.

Affectionately your son

D Walker

14. Rebecca Washington to her daughter and son-in-law,
Jane L. W. Walker and Judge David Walker

Russellville, KY - August 10, 1835

My dear Children:

I know your patience must have been quite exhausted long before this time. I would certainly have written before now, but I still hoped from week to week, that by deferring it a little longer, I might have something satisfactory to communicate concerning our removal. I am grieved to say I have no prospect yet of selling, but I still hope providence will favor my exertions. I shall never enjoy life again until I join you, I am fully persuaded, and life has become so very uncertain that for the last three or four weeks I would have been willing to give up everything I possessed to have been with you lest I might never see you again.

The cholera has been among us, and death has been doing fearful work. Before I say more let me assure you we are in our usual health, and none of our immediate family have suffered, and that horrible disease has nearly subsided in Russellville, but it has left it a Great House of Mourning. It broke out last Friday night three weeks ago with great violence, in twenty-four hours there were nine widows left to mourn the sudden death of their husbands. Among them were some of your acquaintances, my dear Jane. Clayton Slaughter, William Harding, Mr. Browning, Mr. Alderson, Mr. Ray, Mr. Emet, Co. Sans, young William Morton who married one of the Miss Curds. He was endeavouring to get from Town with his wife but got so bad by the time he got to the bridge that he was obliged to return and dyed in a few hours.

Poor Louisa Caldwell has lost all her children but one. Which that is I have not yet been able to hear. Isabella and Eugene dyed within a few hours of each other, and the other some days after. She has also lost Mima and her husband Jacob and two negro children.

Cousin Fanny and Mr. Caldwell have been great sufferers. George, Ann, Frances, Ellen and Andrew are all dead. Indeed, it seemed for a while that all the inhabitants would be swept off. The poor creatures that were not confined by their dying friends fled to the country in all directions. It is sayed that Mr. Burgess after loosing two children became almost deranged and hurried out of town with part of his family, leaving two apprentices in his house dying and another very low.

Were you to hear of all the shocking scenes it would strike you with horror. The Physicians professed themselves entirely incapable of rendering any service. It was with the greatest difficulty they could be buried. Coffins were out of the question. Store boxes and rough planks tacked together any way was all that could be had and not always that. The young men of the place have acted like true Christians. They have been Physicians and nurses throughout, for from what I can hear there has been no other except Mrs. Jack Bibb. The young men have performed every office for male and female. John Peyton sat up alone with Mrs. Warren the night she dyed, and he and one or two other young men

Neither of you acknowledged the receipt of Whiting's last letter with a postscript to it by me from which I concluded you have not received it, as I mentioned in it my great disappointment in not selling. After that I was endeavouring to make arrangements to go with your Father this Fall on a visit. But since the Cholera has been so bad, I have given up all thoughts of it. I should be afraid to leave any of the family behind lest we should never meet again.

In consequence of the mail not being opened for so long a time, I did not receive your joint letter my dear Children until a few days since. It gave us all great pleasure to hear you were well and prosperous. I think my dear Jane you must be one of the most industrious young house keepers in the Territory. If you and Mr. Walker continue such exertions you will be amply provided with future comforts and even luxuries, but I hope you both will be more prudent hereafter and not endanger your health by too much work either of body or mind. What you say dear Daughter of the nature of ----- (torn from edge of letter) ----- your indisposition this summer has greatly increased my desire to be with you. I am as childish about our separation as you can possibly be, but let us try to be supported by hope. Be assured of one thing, I will use every means in my power continually, until I accomplish the desired object.

I sometimes think if I could lease this place out for a few years and get a School in Fayetteville, that I might support my family there until I could sell here. That is if you my Son could with justice to yourself let me have ----- mentioned for awhile on trust. If it cannot, or you do not design to ----- sold my house and lot in Town for almost nothing, \$350. One hundred is ----- will be next May the third, May twelve months, and fifty six months ----- trust from the date. Mr. A. Caldwell bought it. I would not have sold at ----- I thought if I should have an offer for the Ridge I should like to dispose of all of two hundred and ----- on the Highland Lick Road at a dollar an acre. One hundred has ----- I have a note for and is due. A man in Tennessee bought half what I receive ----- debt with the other half, I have put out at interest, but I am afraid if I cannot ----- that I shall be obliged to take that, and also a part of what the house sold ----- of what is yet owing to Mr. Hobson. His indulgence has been very great ----- the payments have been extremely distressing to me, but thank God I shall ----- power to do it. I have just been reading over again your letter to my dear -----.

I wish I could have been with you when Mr. Walker was absent to help you about ----- imagine how you could get through with it all you must not lay off such ----- till we get with you, and then we can have weaving and everything else done ----- try to get receipts for all the dyes for carpeting and as Mr. Walker has ----- you can have as many and as handsome carpets as you can wish for. I have knitted sixty six pair of sox this year made from flyings. I do not think we have bought one dollars worth of dry goods since you left us in any other way than by our work, you see we will not let you get entirely before us. I first work to buy the materials to manufacture, then we manufacture it to sell. Like you my task has nearly broke me down and I sometimes feel like giving up entirely. This summer I have the school which is scarcely any profit, and I suffer so much with headache that it rend-

ers my time very disagreeable. If I was only certain I could sell and appropriate a part of the proceeds so as to give me some income, before I am quite worn out, I would try to bear it with cheerfulness. I will try to cling to hope. Every letter we get from Arkansas we are more anxious to hear again.

Whiting is growing very impatient to get an answer to his. He thanks his Brother for the pretty pet Bear etc and says he must not get out of patience waiting for him and give them to some one else. He hopes to claim them yet.

The swelling in your Aunt Lucy's neck has nearly disappeared but her health is not good and she very seldom goes from home, but that you know is nothing uncommon with any of us. You will scarcely believe me when I tell you Lucy Elizabeth has never been in Russellville since you went away except for a few hours on Sunday evening with Ann Wills to hear Mr. McCallan preach. In your letter to your Aunt, you ask her to let you know something about Mr. McCallan, Virginia's husband. He is a most excellent man, an Episcopalian minister of talents, very small in person but handsome and possessing agreeable manners. He preaches every Sunday before noon at Mr. W.'s and in Town in the afternoon. The people there are so much prejudiced against that denomination that he had but few hearers at first. He now has quite a full house and some of the Methodists have joined his Church, Mr. Stockdale and all his family with some others. There is a subscription of about seventeen hundred dollars made up towards building an Episcopal Church. Virginia has a fine little girl eight months old.

Your sister Margaret has been staying sometime with your Grandmother, she says they were all in the high firing for Arkansas when she left home. How I envy them! I do not know how I shall stand it when they go and leave us behind. They expect to leave this country some time in September. Your Aunt Lucy sends her love to you and says she will write soon. Give a thousand kisses to my dear little Grand Son for us all. Lucy Elizabeth says you are all in her debt and so does Charles Hawkins. They both are very lazy about writing. God bless you my dear children and may he put it in my power soon to see you. I am your very affectionate Mother.

R. Washington

As well as I now recollect, none of us have written to you, my dear Jane, since we received your presents by Dr. Walker.

You know how much we value such testimony of regard from any friends, you may then imagine with what feelings we receive them from such beloved hands as yours. We did not see Dr. Walker nor any of his family. We can never be so fortunate as to see any person going to, or coming from Arkansas. When Mary came we saw her for only a few minutes and have not seen her since. Pray my dear children write often and make us acquainted with all your affairs and proceedings. They are extremely interesting to us. Lucy Elizabeth says you are in debt to her one letter My Son and that you and Jane owe her two. That is a heavy account, if its just.

R. W.

put her in the ground, her husband and daughter Elizabeth, both as it was then thought on their death bed. Contrary to all expectations they recovered. William Curd (a young man not so old as William Caldwell) with two others about the same age dug six graves and buried the persons they were for in one day with their own hands. Sally Sans was one, and I am told they were her only attendants in her last moments and interment.

Some of the deaths were uncommonly sudden. Mrs. John Roberts dyed in a few hours, a journeyman of Mr. George Browns was quite well at dinner time and eat a hearty dinner. By four o'clock in the evening he was buried. Mr. Harrison's old woman Sophy and her husband (your acquaintances, Jane) were cut off almost as suddenly as if they had been shot. I cannot enumerate the vast number, probably you will see some account of it in the public prints. Every description of business made a full stop. The Printer and all the magistrates died, the Post master and Clerk were at the point of death, every stor shut up, their owners either dead or fled into the county. Altogether I never heard of such a scene of calamity in my life.

It is entirely out of my power to describe what my feelings were. Some say the disease is not infectious, but I cannot help thinking it is, and so does Doctor Caldwell. He owned a Negro man who had a wife in Town. He happened to be there when the Cholera broke out. He returned home on Monday morning and dyed that day. The next day another man of his also died. He then had ten cases among his other Negroes, and in a few days his oldest Daughter was taken with it and had a hard struggle for her life. I have been told the Doctor has been so much alarmed that he would not go to see any person when he was sent for to prescribe for them.

For ten or twelve days I was afraid to see any person out of our own family lest they might have been within the influence of the atmosphere of Russellville, and dismissed my school that I had been keeping during the Summer, for the purpose of having as thin a house, and as pure as possible, when judge of my consternation a few days afterwards Mr. Willis Loving, one of the principal cholera nurses, and nearly broke down, applied for permission to move his own and his brothers family to Green Ridge. It was the greatest trial I ever had, and I trust and pray I may never have such another. I knew it would be absolutely inhuman to refuse, and I felt like I was signing perhaps the death warrant of a great part of my family if I consented. But I put my trust in God and told him I would receive them.

In the evening of the same day fourteen black and white moved out. Then it was, my dear Children, as I have said in the beginning of this letter, that I would have given every thing I had in this world (save enought to feed and clothe us while we lived) for me and mine to have been with you, for I thought in all probability I should never see you again, but thanks to the God of Mercies we are all this far saved.

The two families remained with us nearly two weeks. They went a few days ago to their Mothers, old Mrs. Loving's where they will remain some time longer. The merchants are beginning to open their stores, and as Mr. Loving is one, he was obliged to attend to his business, and his Mothers being so much nearer Town than this, it was more convenient for him to attend to his family there than here.

Besides the loss of friends and servants (the cholera raged more violently among the Negroes than the White people, at first) the inhabitants of Russellville will find, I have no doubt, when they return home that there has been depredations made in their houses. All Main Street and the two main cross streets were entirely deserted by their owners. Some country people went to Town to take provision to those that remained in the out skirts of the Town, and saw a great many strange white men and Negroes prowling about the deserted lots, for there was no one to detect them even in the broad day. What hardened Wretches! Louisa Caldwell's house was found broken open a few days after she went to the Country with the remains of her family.

Dr. Caldwell is suffering in the estimation of his neighborhood from a false report respecting his not receiving Louisa in his house when she fled from Town on the first appearance of the Cholera, but they do him injustice, for he was not to blame. In the very earliest stages of the Pestilence he wrote to her and offered her a place which he had purchased in the neighborhood to move her family to until the danger had passed. She strangely misunderstood the invitation and thought he meant his own house. She immediately moved out her whole family, black and white, in number eighteen. The Doctor was not at home when they got there and Mrs. Caldwell told Louisa that it was another place the Doctor had offered her, and that it was entirely out of her power to accommodate her at their own house, and did not even invite her in to rest, nor go to the door to speak to her, but spoke to her out of the window. Louisa then left there without agreeing to go to the other place, and went on to Mrs. Wills and sent a servant in to know if she would admit them. Mrs. Wills said she would receive her white family and one servant for a nurse, but that would not satisfy her and she said she would go back to Town and dye there, and accordingly she returned and lost almost all her family. Her husband, Austin Caldwell was reported as dead several times, it is a wonder he ever recovered.

Since Mr. D. Caldwell's death almost all their servants were sold. Mima and Jacob with her children, Kenzia and her children were all that were left to Louisa and the children. The Cholera has taken all of them but a few of their children. I have just heard Kenzia is also dead.

There is one piece of pleasing intelligence I can communicate after all the bad. It does not immediately concern us, but I know it will be gratifying to you to hear that Mr. Harrison is not as destitute in his old age, as I think I described him to you in a former letter, in consequence of his having made over all his property to Mr. Caldwell before his death. By referring to that letter you will see the state of the case. He has since sued for that property and by a decision of the last Court recovered the whole of it. I hope he will now provide for Mrs. Barclay who is still living with him and continues quite helpless. The ulcer over her eyes runs as much as ever.

Senate Chambers 4th Nov'r

My Dear Jane,

Business progresses slowly, and I am afforded leisure to write. To-day the vote was counted and the New Governor declared duly elected. Tomorrow at 12 is the hour fixed for his inauguration. Notices are on the walls of the houses, on the streets, announcing the fact and committees met tonight to make arrangements for the occasion. The beauty and fashion of the city will be present, indeed it is all that will be done tomorrow. I have repeatedly visited His Excellency and found him sincerely friendly. I promised to say a word relative to my landlady and her family. I bear the peculiar term of Cousin, and am frequently reminded that I am a true Walker. When invited into social circles I tell them I am of the humble Log Cabin party and great allowance is to be made for error.

Last evening I was invited to join a party who were forming a concert of most charming music. I had an engagement for the evening and declined. As I returned it was about concluding and never was softer music borne on the night's breeze to heaven.

But few families have been more highly accomplished; misfortunes have humbled the pride which high accomplishments had inspired. They have lost their father, lost their fine buildings and furniture at Natchez. At one fell swoop all was lost, and with it their pride. A recollection of the past but kindles the tender sympathies, and admonishes them, that the paths of the lowly and humble are the paths of peace.

I have brought you a beautiful volume, the "Religious Dounnier". I have not read it but will take occasion to do so before your brother returns. I regret to say that he was beaten, the Whigs supported him firmly but the Democrats nearly all deserted him, even Mr. Blakemore of Washington County. Such is the fate of all who venture to be free.

I will write again before long. Do let me hear from you. Conference commenced today and I close as it is late to go to church.

Affectionately yours,

David Walker

16. Judge David Walker to his wife, Jane L.W.Walker

Dear Jane,

I wrote you two days since and apprised you that I would write again today by Mr. Safford and he promises to go directly up. I do expect that this letter will reach you sooner than the other. I wrote you about the miniature which I send with this letter by Mr.S. I am sorry I was not in better health and spirits and particularly in better circumstances. You see something of the sad forlorn creature I too frequently am when from home and some times when at home too, for I am frequently so tired as to fix a melancholy cast of countenance.

I am now in good health and very industrious. I was up two hours before day performing a labor which will redound I trust to the benefit of the poor and fatherless children of the state. It is a Common School Bill for the education of the poor children of the several counties. You will hear too of me upon another subject which engrosses much of my time, and as it will close my political career, may in the records be preserved and looked on with satisfaction by our children if any of them should rise in public consideration enough to engage in such matters, that it may serve to stimulate them to deeds of strict integrity and responsibility towards their country, society and their God.

I will not anticipate the arrival of the intelligence as to what it may be. Nothing however of the great or distinguished in talent, to which I have no pretensions.

I wrote you I could not return until about the 8th January. Dear Wife, I would come most cheerfully if I could, it is not in my power or you see me before even this reaches you. I rely upon your firmness and good sense. Don't let an unbecoming uneasiness prey upon your mind. Remember I could do you no good save to sympathise with you which God knows I do. I will do as much as nature is susceptible of.

I have no news. It is nearly a month since I have been in public. I have never been to the river since I came here, although in sight, nor on a steamboat nor at the Theater in truth.

I received your letter of the 11 Inst. yesterday. You have before this received several letters from me.

Dearest, farewell, I will write once more before you see me.

Yours

D Walker

17. Judge David Walker to his wife, Jane L.W. Walker

City of Little Rock
17th January 1836

My Dear Jane,

By Tuesdays mail I had the pleasure of receiving your affectionate letter. An assurance that you are restored to health could not have come more opportunely. I have been from home so much this 12 month past that I am weary of such life. All my philosophy fails me when not actively engaged like a drunkard resorts to his bottle, do I to employment. The mind once disengaged gets back to you by involuntary movement and then this other reflection comes, that I am a slave and an outcast from my home. I have resolved to abandon all political life and with bitterness have resolved that I owe more to my family than to all the world besides, and will never leave them but to add to their comfort and support.

I would admonish you against indulging in such reflections as perhaps I am too much influenced by a present. I would point to active and useful present as the best antidote for such gloomy reflections. We have a wide theater before us. We owe it to our friends and society that we act well our parts. We owe to the Author of the universe, gratitude and reverence for the mild dispensation of providence. We owe to ourselves and children unbounded confidence and love. In performance of the diversified pursuits which tend to our wellfare and prosperity we must be happy. The effort to attain these ends quiets the mind and leaves the smile of contentment at its will.

I am in good health and will be careful not to expose myself to the damps of this atmosphere. The weather is remarkably warm. You will see in the Advocate of the 16th a report on the Declaration of Rights which I prepared and presented to the house. We had some debate upon several important measures but all of the mildest cast. There has been no display of anger or bad feeling. By reference to the papers you will see most of what is going on. We have thirty members in favor of White and 18 for VanBuren and 2 doubtful.

I have not heard from your mother, when I do I will write. The dress you write for I endeavour to get for you. I do not expect to have it in my power to send the articles I have bought but will return home at the earliest opportunity. You need not place any reliance on what I wrote you about getting off. I cannot set any time, a small subject sometimes the labours of a day.

Take care of yourself and Wythe and Ned. Do not let Wythe run about too much or he may be hurt by the stock in the yards or streets.

Affectionately farewell,

David Walker

P.S. I received papas letter and fully comprehend the force and design of his remarks. He need give himself no uneasiness. I have perfect command of myself and can and have done much towards allaying the feeling of bitterness which were like to spring up in debate. I do not know whether you will hear from me again, probably not.

D. W.

18. Jacob Wythe Walker to a kinsman in Kentucky

Fayetteville, Arkansas

21 May 1837

Dear David,

I received your favour of the 25th ult. Nearly nine months had intervened between my letter and letter from you. Two of mine to you on important business remained unnoticed by you for several months. Different members of my family in the interim received letters from John. Courtney has been favored with a long interesting and affectionate communication from her Aunt Polly. From these I had the satisfaction to learn that you were well, but as regards the subject on which I had written to you, with the exception of a passing remark in John's letter of the 4th of January, that Cupid was in Scottsville and that you would endeavour to procure a good master for him, the most perfect silence has been observed.

My letter by Doctor Throckmorton explained my motives for troubling you with Cupid. I thought he could be readily sold in Allen at a fair price. I did not wish Mrs. Hawkins to be troubled with him, and in my letter to her I requested that he should be sent to you to be disposed of so soon as he had rested from his journey. But for the reasons assigned in my letter to you, I would not have parted with him. Could I have anticipated the result I most assuredly would not have sent him to Kentucky. I would take it as a great favor if either Cupid or his value would be forwarded by the first conveyance.

In relation to John, I was determined to leave to you and to himself his future movements. I trust he will have acquitted himself honorably of the many weighty obligations under which your kindness has placed him. Should he have consented to remain in Kentucky, anxious as I am and ever have been to have my dear children about me, I should have been satisfied.

As regards Martin, the information given in my letter was derived from my own reading of his own letter to David covering an application for the use of a horse on which to make his professional visits. Whether Jane's letter to her friends or Martin's to David can be most relied on; or whether they are or are not reconcilable the one with the other is not for me to determine. As to David, the day I received your letter, I placed it in his hands. I have no doubt he will respond to all matters and things of which you desire information.

Now as to my family and myself. We have so far had our health as well as we ever had it anywhere.

I carry on a small farm, and have not attended but very slightly to my professional pursuits. The Laws, the Courts, and practice here are materially different from those in Kentucky. A stranger in a land of strange customs, habits and peculiarities, I was loath to engage in my advanced age, and large family considered, in the arduous duties of an attorney. Shortly after my arrival, I had assurances from prominent

men of both political parties that I would upon the organization of the judiciary under the State government, be appointed judge of this circuit. These assurances also caused me to be indifferent about engaging in practice. I have some reason to believe that I was not appointed, principally because it was thought, that I stood too high with the minority.

I have exhausted the little means of support I brought with me, labor and everything being at least 100 per cent higher than in Kentucky. David has contributed most largely towards our support. He is deservedly at the head of his profession in this part of the state. No one man, however, could have had greater drawbacks, his own family, Mrs. Washington's and my own principally to support. No man ever had a better or kinder son. It is true that I am appointed President of the Bank here and that my salary is \$1200. The Bank has not, and will not go into operation untill this Fall. I was appointed to fill a vacancy. The Legislature will have on their next meeting, which will be called by the Governor in November as is thought, the power to confirm or make another appointment.

We have almost perpetual struggle for office here. The confirmation of my appointment by the Legislature is doubtfull. We would like to hear from you and Polly frequently. Write to me as soon as you can.

Remember us all affectionately to Polly and our friends generally.

Yours truly,

Jacob W. Walker

19. Mrs. David Walker to her daughter Mary

Crooked Creek, Arkansas
April 20, 1844

My Dear Molly,

Although much fatigued from a ride on the Mountains this evening, I will nevertheless comply with the promise I made you in my letter to White last week, which was to write you a letter by this mail. How happy it would make me to receive one in return written by your own little hand. But as you cannot write yourself, you must get your Aunt Lucy Leeper to write for you. Remember me affectionately to her and tell her that I feel some distance from home in these Hills and that as I did not succeed in securing her company, she must at least favor me with a letter or two during my stay here.

Mrs. Spring and myself, with Wythe (on his pony) for our guide have had a very pleasant though somewhat fatiguing ride to the top of the mountain, from the site of which, the sulphur, calceolate and fresh water springs all make their appearance within a few yards of each other. Of the Sulphur water I am very fond. So much so that I have only once tasted fresh water and then found it so insipid that I have not ventured to drink it since.

The view from the elevation we ascended this evening is more commanding and beautiful than any I have ever seen. Your Papa and Mr. Spring are now absent. They will return from Searcy Court on Wednesday. We will then avail ourselves of their leisure hours to visit a cave six or eight miles from this, the cave from which those rocks were taken that are on the chimney piece at home. Should I ever visit this wild place again I will be sure to bring my little ones, then I shall be content, at least for a while. Tell Jane that I think of her very often and that if I should conclude to build a cabin and return here this summer that she is bound to come with us, provided we can get her Father and Mother to give her to me for a few weeks, which I hope we can do.

Mrs. Spring has a daughter, about your age, a sweet tempered pleasant little girl, and a son about the size of Ned. You would love these little children, if you knew them. They are so kind and obliging to each other. There is nothing like selfishness about them. I am as much pleased with Mrs. Spring as you would be with her children. There is something so frank and agreeable in her manners that I feel as if I had known her long.

You must go to see Grandmama and Aunt Lucy Smith and say to them that I will write to them next week. Kiss Nedy for me and tell him that I hope to hear he has been a very good Boy. You must also go home and let Grand Mama, Aunt Lucy and White know you have heard from us. We will be home the first week in May. I could not stay away from my little children longer without becoming dissatisfied. Wythe is getting very anxious to see his Brothers and Sisters and all other friends. By the by, I must not forget that he sends an ocean of love to Lucy. Ask

Aunt Lucy Leeper to write to me by the next mail, as the weather has been unseasonably good. I hope you and Jenny have attended school regularly. You must both learn as much as you can and tell White I shall expect great things from him in that way. I want to hear from Grand Mama Walker. I hope her health is better than when we left her.

It is late at night and I cannot write more. Farewell dear child,

Your affectionate Mother,

J. L. Walker

P.S. Kiss Nanny and tell her Mama is coming home to see her very soon.

20. Richard E. Hawkins to his uncle, Judge David Walker

Woodlawn, Kentucky

July 7, 1845

Dear David:

I am on a visit to my Parents, and have been two weeks, where I met my Brother Robert and an uncle from New Orleans who accompanied Susan up, they are all life and spirit at the idea of flying from disease and heat for a more genial clime where they will remain until October. Susan was highly delighted with her trip, and is extremely entertaining in her recital of the various novelties, adventures and amusements she participated in whilst there. She is altogether prepared to accept the challenge you sent her in a game of chess which I hope she will have the pleasure during the fall or winter, and she thinks, so says her vanity, she can beat you all holler.

I hope, David, you will not impute my silence to the want of affection or to impoliteness. Neither have ever entered my breast, I do positively affirm, but have felt flattered and very much pleased with your attention in every way since I have known you, and to tell the truth it has been my pride that has kept me from answering every letter, knowing my great inability to interest a gentleman who has the intercourse with all the intelligent of your land and I consider a good Judge of matters and things in general, have shrunk from the idea whenever I have thought of it, although I am so much indebted to you still you ought to feel complimented as it is the only letter I have written in years; My good man is my Amanuensis and has been extremely obliging in every instance except this and in this he has been very obstinate.

If you were a stranger to that Phrenologist he has almost made me a convert to his faith, on an acquaintance with you I think firmness, benevolence, generosity, affection and argument are very strikingly illustrated in your character without the science and knowledge of Phrenology, and I expect it was from acquaintance he formed his opinions. I will skim over these abstruse subjects, I know nothing about them, and very little aside of the domestic which I have been very actively engaged in ever since I have been married, and before it was company and amusement; that attention to substantial things have been too much neglected by me. I regret it extremely.

I am going to give up the things of the world more. We have no immediate family but ourselves and look upon it as folly. We are both very unhealthy and can't last very long I think. If I could see your Uncle Edmond once square in the world I would insist on a trip to Arkansas. I would like to visit your fair land, your Mother, brothers, sisters and your interesting family. He desires of all things in the world to see his sister once more and speaks very confidently, if he lives, to gratify that desire.

Your Uncle James, Helen and George William Hawkins arrived in Logan the first of June. The latter was in extreme bad health from chills and fevers for twelve months, he was slowly recovering his health when I left home. He expects to visit the Buena Vista Springs which will be in much higher repute this summer than last from additional improvements and great many public promises he makes to community at large.

G.W. is a promising young man - good mind, talents and appreciation. If he only had the constitution would do well, likewise Henry and Helen lack the same estimable blessing -- good health, which is such a clog to their success in life. Helen was teaching school in Florida with great success and approbation but for the want of physical ability has abandoned it. She is terribly intelligent and learned, none of her sex more so. She has a fine mind - applied and improved herself very much. She has no idea of returning to Florida again, nor your Uncle James. His habits are such that he must fall a victim to the diseases of the country and his friends thought it advisable for him to remain in the West. G.W. will return should his health permit it in the fall.

Give my love to Martin and tell him I should like to see him if he thinks there is sufficient inducement for him to visit us. I hope he is well and doing well. I have always felt very much interested in his welfare for his excellency of character.

I know you ere this heard of the particulars of your Uncle Richard's death. He was a good man and I hope is reaping his reward. His family are remaining as they were and doing very well with the assistance and attention of your Uncle Edmond.

Your Aunts Mary and Emily are both very well, doing the same and look the same without any variation, as when you saw them, just as industrious and persevering in business as though they had large families depending on their exertions. Your cousin Volney and wife spent the day with us a few days before I left home. Mrs. Walker looks better and is enjoying better health than she has in years. The Colonel is afflicted with the rheumatism, but let him get in a reclining posture and get to talking, he forgets his pain. He was full, where the Lunatic Asylum should be situated. He wants it in Russellville, of course, but I believe Hopkinsville is the location.

Give my respects to David Junior and tell him I am pleased with the great improvement in him and not surprised neither for I knew he had the capacity and the requisite for improvement. Susan says she must have demonstrations of the fact before she can believe he is superior to Mack. I tell her it is a sly banter to see him. She sends her best respects to you and David also.

I shall return in a day or two home accompanied by my two sisters. We are going to fly around at a great rate. We are going to Bowling Green, Mammoth Cave, Buena Vista; I wish you were here to accompany us.

I have filled this with nonsense. Excuse it and let no one criticise it. Believe me, yours sincerely

R. E. H.

Smithland, Kentucky
19th June 1847

My Dear Mary,

Smithland (as you perceive by referring to your map) is situated on the Ohio river and just at the mouth of the Cumberland river. Trace that river up a short distance and you will find Clarksville and from thence to the left a short distance, Russellville, where my journey for a time at least will end. I am detained here for a Cumberland boat and may not get one until tomorrow.

I have been very unwell ever since I left home with chills and fevers and have taken medicine every day. Connect this with idleness and confinement to my cabin and I can truly say it has been a disagreeable journey.

I have often, very often, thought of all my dear children but particularly of you. Your sex and age require instructions and attentions which I am incapable of giving. I must rely and do rely greatly on the early impressions made by your Mother. Mary, go where no one will intrude and reflect on all she ever advised, call them into perfect recollection, obey them, obey them strictly. Go to your trunk, look at it. (Now, go as I request you.) How did she arrange your clothing. Are they all in place in good repair, those for daily use easy of access. Have you scattered them about. Go collect them, sit at that trunk until all are in place and you would be ready to say "Ma, see how I have arranged my clothes." Dress neatly, be attentive to your personal neatness. Mary, learn your lessons. Don't spend your time playing but study your lessons. Set apart so much to be learned each night and morning and let no temptation call you off from it. Get your Sunday lessons. When you need recreation take it in amusement with your little sister, make her love you. She will do it if you are kind and affectionate to her.

My dear Child my heart reaches out to embrace and shield you from a thousand ills that may beset you in after life. Confide in me. I will be to you what no one now living can be. You must write to me, write freely. Don't suppose that I am not prepared to make every allowance for imperfections, no one will look at them with more indulgence.

With regard to what you are now learning and what you would be pleased to learn, I can only say that I desire sincerely that you may be good and useful. To be so you will require education of a substantial kind. As to the more ornamental accomplishments, as time and circumstances are making their developements we will attend to them, if circumstances justify. In the meantime rest assured that what I direct is for your good and confide in my judgement. Don't be led away with musick nor a desire to learn musick. When that branch of instruction is commenced in the minds eye I see and hear the whole school humming the note of the Piana. This is sure to be the case and a great many will desire to learn. Don't let this affect you, stick closely to your

books. If I should be able to furnish you an instrument you have plenty, plenty of time to learn. You will hear it said that girls must commence when young to learn. Well, this may be to some extent true, but it applies to the more useful branches of learning just as well.

Wythe and Whiting promised to write to me and I am in expectation of getting their letter in a week. If you will write as soon as you get this I shall probably receive it before I set off home. You will greatly oblige me by writing. Indeed I hope to make you a constant and unreserved correspondent during life and surely you will indulge me in it and commence at once.

I have your miniature with me, and often take it out and give you a good earnest look. So you see that my eye is upon you, but in kind affectionate guardianship. Remember me affectionately to your Grandma, your Aunt and the children. Kiss them all for me. They will take it gently but Ned, who will run. But ketch him and have the kiss. Make Wythe help you hold him.

My respects to Miss Sawyer and Miss James, my commissions are out.

Affectionately
Your Father
D. Walker

22. Judge David Walker to his brother, Martin Kidder Walker

Fayetteville
December 5, 1851

Dear Martin,

I have received your letter from Galveston and I am glad to hear that you are well or nearly so. I have written several times but your change of residence prevented you from getting my letters.

We are all well. I have been at home several weeks hard at work getting in my crop of corn which was quite a good one. Work agrees with me and I feel in better health and spirits when at work than in any other pursuit.

I send you \$100 as you request, the halves herewith inclosed, will be followed next mail in a letter to Emily, which will be the safest course. I shall be glad to see you back, and hope that your very unnecessary and illy advised trip will eventually prove an advantage to you, but enough until we meet. My kind regards to Emily & Wheeler and their children.

Will write next mail to Emily.

Affectionately, your brother

David

To M. K. Walker

23. Matthew Leeper to his brother-in-law, Judge David Walker

Fort Smith

August 28th, 1853

My Dear Sir:

I have learned by a son of Mr. Rupley that you were probably at home. This may be of service to me. As you (confidentially speaking) are the only man at Fayetteville that I can rely on in apprehending my negro. They all wish me well to be sure, but good wishes with nothing else is of but little use to a man when his negro is in the bushes.

It seems to me that the fates are against me. Even the negroes that I have raised betray me. The scoundrel George being aware of my necessities has taken advantage of them. I have no means to enable me to use the proper means for his apprehension. But I have every confidence that you will bring him to me if he can be had.

Nancy and the two children will pay Mrs. Walker and I am resolved that he shall leave the State. I shall detain at the Choctaw Agency, I think, til the first of October or get him and if I am unsuccessful I will go on and take the chances.

I have not time even to thank you for the many acts of kindness extended to us. Of my intended movements I say nothing publicly with a hope that George will think I have left the country.

Your friend truly,

Matthew Leeper

24. Rebecca Washington to her granddaughter, Mary Walker,
while the latter was away at school in Kentucky.

Fayetteville, Arkansas
September 15, 1854

Miss Mary Walker
H. Mathews P.O. Jefferson County, Kentucky

I thank you my dear affectionate Child for your several kind letters and I entreat you to attribute my not writing to you in return to the right cause, inability. You are aware of the many and heavy duties which devolve upon your Aunt L. and myself, based upon sixtynine years of age and great physical infirmities. These causes, I know your candid mind will acknowledge as ample testimony to the truth of my assertion inability. This day the Sabath, the day of rest, I feel rather better and will try to write a few lines to you my dear Mary, the child of my beloved and departed Jane. You will I am sure be glad to hear we have a new and pleasant church of our own, and a good Minister to officiate in it. It was commenced and finished in four months. It is quite a neat, pretty building, in the Gothic style of sufficient size for a large congregation, we have a good choir of chanters and singers and a sweet toned instrument on which Miss Bell Dean or Mr. Zellner performs. Your Aunt and I always attend service when circumstances permit.

I received a letter from your Aunt Lucy Leeper last week. She says they are and have been in good health, much pleased with the country and the society, but complains of the extreme heat of the weather which I believe has been pretty general throughout the Union this summer. The effects of it, and an early and long continued drought will be severely felt by all of us in this part of the world. The fields and gardens have suffered immensely, some of them entirely destroyed. My garden was very promising in the spring, but has shared the fate of others.

I was at your Father's some days since to see your Brother Whiting who has been sick for some weeks but is much better. He was walking about his room when I left him. Your Uncle Whiting has also had a serious spell of illness. He has now nearly recovered his flesh and strength again. I frequently see Nanny. She attends your Aunt Margaret's School which is quite a large one this session. N. is very well and much engaged in her studies. All your Aunt's family are well, they have moved in their new house, and all looks very comfortable about them. I saw Mr. Duncan a few days since. He told me your Aunt Courtnay and children were in excellent health and that they were staying at your Aunt Lucy Carnahan's until he could build a house in the neighborhood of Mount Comfort; whether it is designed for a permanent residence or only for summer use, I could not understand as I was only with him a few minutes and he seemed to be much hurried.

You will find me dear Child a most uninteresting correspondent, were I to write to you, for when I endeavor to bring to my recollections the current events of the neighborhood that I may impart them to the absent one, they reject my summons and therefore I can give you but little news. I just recollect a marriage with some little romance attending it, Miss Sally Butler to Mr. R. Rutherford. They were married at night in our Church by Mr. Hackett our new Minister. When the bride and bridegroom with their attendants passed up the aisle they were followed by Mr. Butler with a maid behind her holding a bottle of camphor. The story says that Mrs. B. fainted when she witnessed the marriage of her oldest daughter and thought it would be well to have a restorative in case of a similar attack. After the ceremony the bridal party returned home in carriages to an excellent supper. The bride and bridegroom left Mrs. B's the next morning for Van Buren where he is already engaged as a teacher with a salary of seven hundred dollars, at the same time reading law preparatory for practice. No romance in that but good solid sense.

Another little scrap of news, if you have not heard it before, is that Oma has a daughter after having been a wife without children for fourteen or fifteen years. All your family, white and black, are well except White and he, I hope, soon will be.

Your Aunt Lucy sends her love to you and we both hope you will soon be with us, so that we can talk with you if we cannot write, and now dear Child farewell. May God bless and preserve you from all evil prays your affectionate Grand Mother.

Rebecca Washington

25. Mary Walker to her father, Judge David Walker

Walnut Grove (Ky.), Jan. 2nd, 1855

Dear Father:

You have undoubtedly thought me very remiss in my duty for the last few weeks but I can assure you it has been quite out of my power to write for at least two weeks. First, I thought it useless to write again for I expected to be with you long since and secondly, I have been very busy preparing for our concert, which came off very well. I played several pieces, one a quartette from Massanette for 8 hands, and I sang with Mr. Beppins, Sue and Ben McGraw a Quartette, also a duet with Annie Duncan, then a solo song from the Opera of Robert Duvil, which was the most difficult piece sung.

I cannot tell you all that happened for I must tell you of my very great disappointment on the receipt of your last letter. First Wythe wrote me that either he, White, or yourself, would very soon start for me. Then Uncle White in one of his letters said you would leave home in a few days and in your last you mentioned my return. Then imagine my great sorrow and disappointment to read in your letter that you hoped to attend my examination in June. But your letters are an enigma to me. In one place you mention the length of time that must elapse before we meet, and in another you say only a few letters will pass between us before we are in daily intercourse. I do hope you will change your mind and let me return this winter. The river is in boating order now, and Oh, you cannot tell half how much I want to see you and I am certain you will yet come or send for me soon, dear Papa.

Christmas is over and a new year commenced, and with it many new resolutions on my part. I am determined to study very diligently this new year and let 1855 tell of more improvement than 1854 has done.

I spent my week's holiday with one of my schoolmates and although I enjoyed myself greatly yet I was glad when it was over and I could commence study again. I thought of you all Christmas morning and I could hear the merry voices of dear little Nannie and David saying "Christmas gift, Papa", and then the good dinner, with Grandma, Aunt Lucy, Aunt Margaret and all the children, to spend a happy day with you. How different with me although surrounded with every luxury yet something wanting. Oh! could I have spent that day with the loved ones at home I should have been perfectly happy. Two months previous I thought it would happen that I would be at home.

Mr. Beckett's school is quite full and more are expected. I am sorry that it is so large because there is more noise and confusion than when we had only a few.

We have finished Anatomy and are now waiting for Mr. Beckett to decide what shall be our next branch. I have been through Mr. Beckett's course I believe with the exception of one or two studies which the girls completed while I was at home and which I will finish at home.

One of my classmates will leave school this month. She and I have been hoping to leave together, but I fear she will be first.

Has White entirely recovered his strength? Every letter I receive mention is made of his illness. And you too have been suffering. I am very sorry dear Papa and only wish I was at home to be your nurse. I assure you I would make a good one.

Everyone accuses me of negligence I expect, for I have not answered a letter for a month except one from Mrs. Spring which I was very happy to receive. Malinda has never answered any of my letters. Ned's was received last week and will be answered immediately. She has never received an answer to the long letter which she wrote early in the spring.

With this new year I have made a new resolution to never permit a week to pass without writing you a long letter, but pray don't take this for a beginning, for it is quite dark and I am almost feeling my way.

My love to all my relatives and friends, also to all at home, Aunt Courtney shall receive the next letter.

Goodbye dear Papa and remember Mary is very anxious to come home.

Your devoted daughter,

Mary Walker

26. Charles Whiting Walker to his father, Judge David Walker

Lebanon, Tennessee
Feb. 24th, 1860

Dear Papa,

Today I received a letter from Mary in which she states that you had not received mine to you written the day after my arrival at this place. This I assure you was quite as disagreeable a surprise to me as the non-reception of my letter was to you. Very painful to my feelings would it be to have you think that I should have delayed even one week after my arrival here without having written you -- to you whom duty and inclination combine in prompting me to write. No! You cannot believe me wholly devoid of those natural feelings of love and affection arising from the relation which I sustain towards you.

The day after I arrived here I wrote you to the effect that I had applied for admission into the Senior Class and was conditionally admitted. Since then I have joined the Middle Class. This step I regret on one account and one only, and that is that you were desirous that I should enter the Senior. My reasons for entering the class which I did will I hope be satisfactory and meet your approbation.

My reasons then are these. First it was impossible for me to make up the requisite amount of reading in the Middle Course and at the same time to do justice to the Senior Secondary. I was advised by Judge Guin that the studies of the Middle Course were more important than that of either of the other Classes; and as I expected to remain but five months I desired to spend that time in a manner most advantageous to myself.

Tis true that had I entered the Senior Class (which I might have done at a sacrifice of a good portion of that course), I would have obtained a diploma. But so far as that is concerned I am perfectly indifferent. At least I could not think of getting one at such a sacrifice. I came here not for a diploma but rather for knowledge; which knowledge I expect to acquire provided I keep my health and strength. These are the reasons why I did not join the Senior Class and I believe they will be satisfactory.

With school and professors I am highly delighted. The plan of instruction here pursued I think combines more advantages than that of any other school within my knowledge. Our lessons it is true are long, consisting generally of more than one hundred pages. But then we have ample time for close application to read them over once and review the leading principals contained in them. We then recite upon it, and then have a lecture upon the same, so you see that there are three different impressions of the same thing upon the mind which impressions without great inattention can hardly fail to be lasting.

I am boarding with Mrs. Lyon and find it a comfortable place in every respect. My room mate is an intelligent studious and gentlemanly young man. He is a classmate and I find rather an assistance than otherwise.

After remaining a couple of days in Lebanon I started to Kentucky. I staid there two or three days and during the time enjoyed myself finely. I gave Grandma's picture to Aunt Polly, which she was glad to reccive.

I visited Woodlawn and Green Ridge of which more at another time. I saw Mr. Wilson Lyne and obtained from him \$97.65. I am keeping regular accounts of all expenditures and will at the end of each month send them to you.

Hoping that you will receive this, and that I will hear from you soon, I am your affectionate Son,

Chas. W. Walker

Wichita Agency L.D.
Nov. 29, 1860

Dear Sir:

I wrote you last week in reference to my indebtedness at Fayetteville, all of which shall be settled during the first week in January ensuing.

I now write merely for the sake of a little gossip in reference to the political appearance of the country, and for the pleasure of discoursing with a friend for whose opinions I entertain sentiments of high respect.

In my last letter I mentioned that I was decidedly in favor of the Union, and there is probably but few men who live in it that would go further than myself to sustain it, if it could be done with fairness and justice to the South; but from the tone of the Northern papers and the overwhelming success of Mr. Lincoln, I fear that the South will be driven to the wall and be forced to withdraw; if such should be the case, the liberties and enjoyments of the American people will have set in blood for ever.

No man can reasonably anticipate the desolation which would ensue, civil war would be the inevitable consequence, neighbor would be arrayed in arms against his neighbor, brother against brother and father against his son, until in after years we would look back with despairing mockery and utter ruin, which our folly have brought upon us. In meeting such a fearful crisis the odds in every particular is against the South, it will be composed of the most discordant material. There will be two great parties, the Union and the Anti-Union parties, hundreds and thousands of black Republicans will be found in our midst and scattered in every direction throughout the Southern States, ready and willing to stimulate the negroes to the commission of the most fearful outrages.

I am not an alarmist and believe that I am speaking nothing but the truth. But how are these things to be avoided? There is a maxim that you might as well rob a man of life as of the means by which he lives; if these things have to come, the sooner they come the better, as I would rather aid in breasting the storm myself than to have my children do so after me.

I am speaking to some extent at random for my position is so isolated and remote, that it is impossible for me to be well posted in reference to the political history of the country.

There would not be time for me to receive a letter from you at this place previous to my departure, but a letter addressed to me at Fort Smith would be very acceptable if you deem it worth the trouble.

Very Sincerely,
Your Friend
M. Leeper

Hon. David Walker - Fayetteville, Ark.

28. Emily Walker Wheeler to her brother, Judge David Walker

Austin, (Texas), January 15th (probably 1861)

Dear Brother:

I have received yours of the 17th also the paper containing the resolutions passed at Fayetteville and Benton, which I have read very carefully and I should greatly admire your truly patriotic sentiments and your devotion to the Union, if there was any longer a union to preserve. Why would you embalm the dead body, when the spirit has fled. The Egyptians, whom the submissionists imitate in this respect, knew not that the soul was immortal. "Preserve the Union" was the cry when the United States Government, with the sword in one hand and the purse in the other, compelled Texas to part with her public domain and we were submissionists then, for we had not the power to resist. But the day of retribution is at hand. "Save the Union" is still the cry and nobly has the South responded to it, already she is in arms and she will save it, not the dead corpse, but the living spirit, not by compelling a weaker power to submit to oppression and wrong, not by going over to the ranks of the abolitionists, no not for this has she risen up in all her majesty and strength but to contend for the same principles for which her forefathers contended and to preserve the Constitution and liberties which they bequeathed to their children - the Constitution which the South has ever respected and which the northern fanatics and black Republicanas are now trampling under foot.

You mistake the position of parties in our State; the Secessionists are not for an independent Republic. They only hoisted the "Lone Star" as the ensign of State sovereignty. It is Governor Houston and his party who are, or pretend to be, for an independent Republic. Houston is acting the same double part he did in the days of annexation and the secessionists are the same people who carried annexation in spite of him - the same people who will meet here in a few days in Legislature and convention and who will then walk out of a union with Black Republicans and abolitionists and as they go out may they shake the dust from off their feet. You pray for blessings on Sam Houston "the hoary headed traitor" who is seeking to betray and ruin his country. I will be even with you. I pray for Governor Rector. May the hearts of his people be with him and may Arkansas be true to her southern sister states and may she become a bright star in the "Southern Confederacy". I advise you to pray again "Oh Baal hear us" --for perhaps your god is asleep or on a journey. We will soon see what action Texas and Arkansas will take in this matter for then we will know who prayed to the true God, you or I, and who to Baal.

We are all very well. I believe I have told you that Walker was in Nacagadoches with Cousin Richard and Royall in Kentucky. Royall will graduate in June and then I will go to housekeeping again. We think of making Austin our home. Emily and Johny are with us. I told Johny you said his name must be changed if he had ever done anything wrong and he did not like it much, though I believe John claims to be very near perfect. I will send you Emily's likeness when I go to Galveston where I can have it well taken. We think she is very handsome and sprightly indeed and every one falls in love with her who sees her. I was very glad to hear from Martin and the other members of our family. Give my love to all of them and tell them if I live they will see me again some of these times when they are not looking for me.

Your Sister, Emily

P.S. Please give my kindest regards to W.M. Washington and family.

29. Judge David Walker to his sister, Emily Walker Wheeler

(Undated. Probably 1861)

Dear Emily,

You have written a very foolish letter to me, do you suppose I am going to get in a snarl with you on account of Politics or anything else? No - no - you know nothing of the political difficulties that beset us, save that you may have caught up from reckless assertions of politicians and papers.

However much I might regret to hear my sister denouncing distinguished men as "hoary headed traitors", "he had better look to his head" etc., I should pity rather than be angry with her. To me it was unnecessary to declare yourself a "lady and a Christian". These I had never thought of questioning. I will not doubt your full claim to both and indulge in the hope that in their full exercise you will use milder and more charitable terms when speaking of others than you have heretofore done.

As to your indirect allusions to my position in politics, as traitorous to my country, and my remarks in reply, I assure you that I felt not at all sensitive upon my own account. Nor was there anything on your part so offensive to me as to require either acknowledgement or regret, perhaps, but upon your own account I should not have referred to them at all. You may therefore be assured that there is in my opinion no occasion for "letting fall the beautiful curtain of charity" over your misdeeds if such indeed there be.

I did draw a picture of our probable condition and alluded to it as the work of wicked bad men both North and South. To which you say you might "allude to the wail of misery that for the last fifteen years has gone up from your women and children though not long and loud enough to reach the ears of the despots who rule at Washington."

Conclude all this to be true and still it is no answer to our present cries of suffering. Besides the fifteen years wail was addressed to rulers selected and sustained by Texas, and in opposition to those whom you denounce as tame submissionists.

You allude then to the dissolution of the Union, and to those to whom you attribute the calamity and say, "You have no wish to reply for if you reply at all, you will speak freely and that would only make matters worse." I suppose the plain English of all this is, that you would in candor be compelled to say to me some unpalatable things, to cast upon me imputations which would be still more offensive (supposing me already to be offended).

"That I should be compelled to denounce you if I replied at all, therefore I will not reply. It is so, but I will not tell you it is so". And then again you write to express your regret at the mistake you had made. In what did you mistake? Was it when you classed me with General

Houston, or was it in your second letter when you said you knew that as soon as I was informed I would continue to give aid and comfort to the enemy? It seems to me that you had made no mistake unless you once did, or now do, impute to me bad motives.

I believe Emily I have noticed all of your letter in no spirit of anger or resentment, but more to bring in review before you what I esteem rather a careless style of writing. I shall certainly never forget you, and all that are dear to you. I once cherished the hope that I should see you. Age and circumstances render it improbable now. Our Country is in greater distress than I supposed when I wrote. There are twenty two thousand troops now quartered at Fayetteville and within forty miles, principally at Camp Walker. David (Mary's Husband) is Colonel of the 6th Regular Infantry. John, Captain of Cavalry. Wythe, First Lieutenant in Captain Gunter's Company. White and Ned in the ranks with Walker Moore and Martin Hawkins. I am yet at home trying to take care of our women. I was in Missouri at a battle fought Carthage. One hundred prisoners taken at Neosho.

Yours

D Walker

August 6th, 1861

My Dear Husband:

I was so thankful to receive your dear letter today. You can easily imagine my uneasiness since the first news of an engagement reached us. A thousand dreadful thoughts have been mine day and night and if I had not naturally been of a sanguine temperament I should not have been able to have borne the suspense. But thank God you are yet spared and I will trust His Goodness and Mercy to bring you safely back to me.

I felt truly awful when I heard of the death of Mr. Fullbright - his poor wife and children, how dreadful the loss to them.

Please, dearest, write to me as often as possible. I am so anxious.

White returned this evening. His health is yet very poor. He has only 10 days' leave of absence. I have tried to dissuade Papa from going to Mo. but to no purpose. He starts off in the morning accompanied by Ned. I send by them a pair of pants you may need.

We are all getting well. Volley is fattening again and talks always about his daddie. Jennie and Sue are well and send a kiss to Dear Father.

I have time to write only a little note being just informed that Papa will start so soon. Indeed, Darling, I don't feel like writing. I would tell you everything if I could only see you but I am so nervous and anxious that I can't think of the news if there is any and I don't feel like writing it anyway. My thoughts are all of thee and God knows I would give all the world to be with you tonight, my own dear Husband. Oh, may the God of battles preserve my dear, dear Davis is the prayer of his devoted and anxious

Mary

My love to Wythe and Walker. Tell them we pray for them and would be glad if they would write. They don't know how anxious we all are to hear from you all often. Good night, darling. May you sleep in peace and safety is my prayer.

31. J.D.Walker to his wife Mary

In Camp, 6 miles from
Springfield, Mo.,
August 13th

My Dear Mary:

I again have an opportunity of writing you by some of my friends who are returning home. God only knows how much I want to return myself and see my own dear, dear darling and our dear little children. But I cannot tell when that can be, but as soon as I can.

Your Pa starts down, I understand, tomorrow with your Uncle John who is seriously but not dangerously wounded in the face. He will not travel fast and I reckon he will not reach home until you get this.

Rieffs Company also starts this morning. It makes me feel extremely bad to see others starting home and not be able to go myself, but dear wife bear it as well as possible, all will turn out well yet.

The good God has protected me so far and I hope and believe will continue to do so.

I have had miserable health until right recently. My fever would leave me and then return, but I now feel entirely relieved, and in a pretty good fix.

Our killed and wounded is not near as large as we at first feared. The enemy's tremendous, they were entirely routed.

Oh it was a sickening sight to pass over the battle field and see the dead lying in every direction. The enemy left hundreds of their dead unburied although leave was permitted them to bury. And a very large number of their wounded are left.

Take good care of yourself and the children. Give my love to the dear little ones and tell them many good things for Daddie.

Goodbye.

Yours affectionately,

J. D. Walker

32. Mary Walker to her father, Judge David Walker

Underwood, August 16, 1861

Dear Father,

I am sure you must be anxious to hear from home, and although I have no very cheering intelligence to communicate, have concluded to send you a letter by Mr. Feenster, who leaves home for Missouri tomorrow.

I am glad to inform you that White, Nannie, and David have missed a chill for three days and we hope are recovering. White expected to have gone back to Camp Walker last Wednesday but has really been very sick until a few days ago, he is very weak now, but will leave home as soon as he can ride.

I have been very uneasy about you all since the news of the battle first reached us. So many different reports are given concerning it that it is impossible to learn the truth. 'Twas a dearly bought victory to us, and has caused many an affectionate heart to groan with anguish. Poor Aunt Jane is inconsolable, upon hearing of Martin's death I went to see her, and found her almost heartbroken. Your letter which she received while I was there seemed to afford her some consolation.

We were distressed to hear of dear Uncle John's misfortune, and do pray that it may not prove serious. Will you not bring him home with you when he can travel? How thankful I am that you are with him and am very glad that you went to Missouri so soon.

David's health is still delicate, can't he come home now, if only to remain a short time, until he recruits? I do earnestly hope he may, for I can but feel uneasiness concerning him.

I hope Ned's health is improving, no one has mentioned Walker since the battle. I trust he is well. I have felt much anxiety about your health, dear Papa, when you left I knew as long as the excitement continued you would keep up, but I am afraid your strength is now nearly exhausted. We miss you, especially Sue and Volney who are talking about Grandpapa continually.

Volney has had fevers yesterday and today. I don't think he had chills, he is better and more playful this evening. Little Jennie is well and good as usual.

We keep the knitting needles, and wheels busy, have filling spun for about 25 yards of cloth, and will commence weaving as soon as we get the cotton for warp. I know but little about the outdoors work, but I believe all seem to be industriously employed.

All join me in love to yourself and all other relatives. We received your note from Mr. Stirman this evening for which thank you.

That God may help and preserve you dear Father is the wish of
Your affectionate daughter,
Mary Walker

Hon . D. Walker
Springfield, Mo.

33. J.D.Walker to his wife Mary

St. Louis 11th Aug. 1862

Dear Mary,

I wrote the other day but knowing you will be glad to hear from me every day, I write again. Though nothing of importance that I can write you has transpired.

I have been staying at Mr. Wills for several days and will remain with him until the 14th, when I shall go to John. It is a delightful place to stay at and everything is done for me to make me comfortable. I do wish you and the children could be with me. I know that beyond being with me, that you would enjoy a visit here greatly.

I think of you all the while and hope that you and the children and our family are as well as I am. I am in fine health as I ever was, and feel much stouter than I have for two years.

Mr. Jebbeth and Graham are still here, the latter preached yesterday. I did not go to hear him and went to St. John's Church (Catholic) and heard a very good sermon from Bishop Kindwick, and the finest music I have ever heard.

I cannot but hope that it will not be many months until I shall return to you. But should it be very long or short my dear Wife must always know that her welfare is also above every earthly consideration with me. And as long as you are well cared for, the circumstances that now surround me individually are nothing.

Kiss Vol, Sue and Jennie for me and tell them many good things from me. My love to all. Write to me at "Oakland, Coler County, Illinois", and send letters to "Mr. Wilson Hackney, Springfield, Mo."

God bless you, Good bye,

Your affectionate Husband,
J. D. Walker

St.Louis, Nov. 19, 1862

My Dear Mary,

I wrote you but the other day but have an opportunity now by Dr. Wilson who is on his way to Southern Arkansas and will go by Little Rock and there have my letter sent to you.

I learned that a short time ago with great satisfaction that you had left Fayetteville and gone below, to Ozark I reckon. And that all were well when you started. I have had no letter from you since the one brought to Springfield by Capt.G. It is almost insufferable but I sincerely hope I shall not have to bear the separation long. It seems almost a century since I was taken from home. There is nothing new to communicate that I should be allowed to write.

I received a letter from John, Rose and Sallie yesterday. All were well and anxious for me to return shortly. If not exchanged, when this will take place I cannot say.

How it would delight me to pass this wet stormy day with my dear wife and children, how happy we all should be. God grant that you are all comfortable and well. Kiss my dear Sue, Vol and Jennie and don't let them forget me. Tell them many good things from me. I am in good health. My love to all.

May God bless and protect you my dear wife is the prayer of

Yr affectionate Husband

J. D. Walker

35. J.D.Walker to his wife Mary

Little Rock,
Monday Morning
August 2nd, 1863

My Dear Wife,

At last I am getting home. I reached here last, travelled from Pine bluff to this place yesterday. I have not yet procured a horse, but think I can get some conveyance in the forenoon of today and shall hurry to you as fast as possible. You know the great joy I feel at being again so near you.

God knows I never could have borne it, had I known the great trouble to which you have all been subjected. I had no idea whatever of the situation of the country, and am truly thankful you and the children and Pa and family have so far escaped injury and that I will soon be with you to protect you.

Tell our dear little things how I wish to see them and dear Wife and all of you.

I am in good health, but very much fatigued.

I write as the express starts up immediately, and will reach Lewisburg today.

My love to all.

In haste

Your affectionate Husband.

J. D. Walker

The Tahlequah goes up this evening and I will come on her.

36. Capt. J. Wythe Walker to his father, Judge David Walker

Little Rock, Arkansas
January 30th, 1863

Dear Father,

I have been compelled to neglect writing to you sooner because I have been so closely confined in camp that an opportunity to write and send the letters has never presented itself before. We are now in camp 2 miles S.W. of the Rock near the Camden Road and although we have been here for several days I have not had an opportunity of going into the city until yesterday. Consequently when persons left the Rock going up country I do not know it in time to write.

We have had a right hard time of it. Since I saw you we travelled early and late to reach the Rock expecting that the Federals would be here. Soon after, when in about 7 miles of the Rock, the rain fell at night from which the River rose so high bedclothing and everything became completely saturated. On the morning after the rain by order of Col. Brooks I was placed in command of the men detailed to assist the wagons of the Brigade through the mud to Little Rock with instructions to bring the train into Camp that night if possible. After working hard all day and sinking the last wagon in the mud I struck camp for the night, which place we were unable to leave for three days owing to the condition of the teams and the fact that the wagons were frozen tight in the mud holes. This state of affairs left the whole army without blankets, houses in the Rock supplying the place of tents.

White was with me, he being one of the men detailed to assist me. In the meantime and before we reached the Rock the Army made a trip to Pine Bluff leaving us behind of which I was glad as it proved a wild goose chase, the Army soon returning to this place.

Since we have been in Camp here we have been doing tolerably well. Our Army is much reduced, my company numbers thirty. I believe there are but two larger in the Regiment. Some companies with not more than 8 or 10 men and one Capt. Wrights from Crawford County with only three men left. Col. Brooks starts up the country in a few days to recruit his Regiment. Will go with Cavalry force sufficient to go as far as Washington. I will get him to take my letter as far as Lewisburg so that you can get it from there. He will have passed without your seeing him as he will go up on a boat. Our Regt. will be recruited by conscripting and every other available means. Lieut. Allens place in my company will be filled by appointment. Col. Brooks has recommended White to Gen. Holmes for appointment to fill the vacancy. White has distinguished himself as one of the best, if not the very best soldier in the Regt. Always at his post cheerfully discharging every duty.

Little or nothing from Vicksburg. It was reported in town yesterday that Bragg had retaken Nashville and that Rosencratz had fallen back. Bragg was reinforced by Longstreet. The excitement which was very great when we first came here has subsided. The price of everything out of the question. I paid one dollar yesterday for half paper pins, flour 40¢ pr. hundred and pork the same. We seldom eat any of it.

Prospects good for remaining here sometime. Would be pleased to see you down but could not think of asking you to come unless you have business at the Rock.

My health has improved much since I saw you and I feel quite well. White is well and joins in love to you all. Hope we may all meet again after the war is over and spend our time in peace and quiet. I have just hunted up a sheet of paper to write to Mary, an article hard to get here.

Affectionately,
Wythe

37. Pertaining to parole of J.D.Walker

Richmond, March 28, 1863

Hon. R. W. Johnson
Senator from Arkansas

Sir,

I am directed by the President to forward to you for transmission to Judge Walker the following report by Mr. Robert Ould, Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, dated March 20th, 1863:

"Some time ago I found out that Judge J.D. Walker had been liberated from prison and was on parole not to leave the State of Illinois. I have already twice brought the Judge's case to the attention of the Federal Agent. He reports that he is unable to find the present residence of Judge Walker. I have not the slightest idea that he is telling the truth in this statement. I think however that the judge's release would be hastened if I were informed. By an express agreement between the Federal Agent and myself, all paroles or obligations of any kind heretofore given by our people civil or military, are annulled. Judge Walker therefore is now at liberty to go anywhere, notwithstanding his parole.

"They (the Federals) send parties captured in the East, to the West, and vice versa. Another plan of theirs, is to transport our people from some one of their many prisons to another that all trace of them may be lost.

"I trust, Mr. President, I shall not be wanting in energy and vigilance enough to mitigate as much as it is possible for me to do, the horrors of this sad picture of national baseness. I will make the case of Judge Walker a matter of special effort."

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Burton W. Harrison
Private Secretary

Plantation April 17, 1863

Dear Cousin,

Your very acceptable letter from Richmond has reached me, on my plantation twenty miles from Tallahassee, in great distress. About eighteen months since, the disturbed state of the country in the vicinity of Tallahassee, growing out of the frequent alarms and constant apprehension of the enemys advance from the sea board (we are only about 20 miles from their ships) so disturbed, indeed broke up our schools, that I removed all my children to Eufaula, Alabama for the purposes of education. Except my eldest son, then fifteen years old who I sent to the Military School of the State of Georgia at Marietta.

Last Christmas I brought them all down to spend the holidays with me on the plantation. The time for their return arriving, I went with them back to Eufaula but finding the scarlet fever in the town and the small pox in the County, they returned with me most unfortunately to Florida. When I left my residence at Tallahassee a few servants remained and these coming to the plantation brought the scarlet fever with them. It got among my children and I have lost two of the sweetest noblest girls that ever blessed a Father's heart.

The first sunk under the terrible disease in 24 hours. The last suffered greatly for eight days. I send you her obituary but it does not do her justice. The elements of greatness and goodness were happily blended in this child. She was quick of conception, correct in judgement, prompt in execution, strong of resolution and under the guidance of the kindest purest heart.

Thus gifted and ambitious of distinction she allowed herself to be excelled by none whether in acquisition of learning or in works of charity, kindness and usefullness. But it was in works of kindness, charity and usefullness she found occupation most congenial to her tastes for here she seemed almost to revel in the exercise of her rare gift of an executive character. She grieved intensely for the loss of her sister two years younger than herself but often and suddenly would she check the flow of her tears to speak words of comfort to the other children. They were separated but two short weeks.

My dear little Gertrude although quite respectable in mind had no claim to the superior mental faculties of her sister, but she was the very embodiment of love and tenderness and in analyzing my own feelings I have thought that if one of my children more than another, nestled nearer to my heart, it was her. Excuse this tribute from a Father's pen for it is a relief to me to write it.

I am pained to hear of your losses by the enemy, they wage war in the most vandal spirit.

From Cousin Courtney I have an account of my Uncle's family but that was some time since and I should be gratified to receive many particulars omitted in your letter. What family have you and where are they and your brothers John and Martin. I should be gratified to hear of them. And of Cousin Courtney and Mr. Duncan.

I am pleased with the use of the old English word Revolution in your letter. It has a well understood well defined meaning. I am no admirer of the doctrine of secession. I was a revolutionist believing the time had come which sooner or later overtakes every people when they must fight for their rights or lose them.

I have grieved, sorely grieved, at the destruction of the Republic but the South has nothing to reproach herself for in the conflict. The right of the quarrel is with us, our case is just. I was never under greater apprehension about the West than now. Foiled in his attack on Vicksburg and Charleston the enemy is concentrating or so reported to crush Bragg in Tennessee and hold the West. He has the Rivers and Rail Roads and can concentrate faster than we.

Please write me again and fully in relation to all our kindred near or remote. Such information is to me most acceptable especially at present. I have a nephew Humphrey Gwynn at present in St. Francis County on Taylors Creek in your state, about 30 miles from Memphis. Would a letter reach him or have the U.S. possession of that region.

Affectionately Your Cousin

George K. Walker

39. Capt. Wythe Walker to his father, Judge David Walker

Camp Bayon (?) (Bayou)
(August 2, 1863) (?)

Dear Father,

I received your letter of 29th July this morning. I was in the Rock yesterday and saw Mr. Lewis and also read your letter to Major Adams. I was very busy whilst in town and had but a few moments to write before I left for Camp and sent the letter by express which you have doubtless received ere this.

My business in town was to have one of my men released from the guard house, which I succeeded in doing by appealing directly to General Price who now commands in place of General Holmes, whose illness disqualifies him to attend to any business. In fact some doubts are entertained for his recovery.

Riggins (the man spoken of), I had sent to the Rock he being sick at that time. When he recovered he was ordered to return to Camp, but being engaged with some others in robbing a melon patch, was arrested and lodged in the guard house.

Major Adams has been very kind to me and has invited me to visit him and spend some time with him. I shall pay him a visit when I have the time but really have but little time to spend from my Company. I have spent much time in the Rock since I came down on Detached Service. First on the Court Martial which lasted a month and then on Command of three Companies as City Guard and in charge of the Military Prison for two weeks.

My time passed very pleasantly, General Roane being in command of the Post by whom I was treated with great kindness and he expressed himself anxious that I should remain in command of the Guard but although the position was an easy one I could not think of leaving thus permanently detached from my Regiment.

You need give yourself no uneasiness about White and myself. While we are so near we are both in fine health and if either should be seriously sick you shall be advised. We are fast recovering from fatigue of marching and will be as good as new in a very short time.

I wrote you and had fully intended to apply for leave of absence to visit you as soon as I returned to Camp, but have concluded to remain a few days longer until we are settled in our new encampment to which I think we will move tomorrow or day after. Then I shall see General Fagan and I do not think he will refuse me. In fact he promised me I should go as soon as he could let me off.

I am sorry that circumstances prevented your acceptance of the office to which you were appointed and hope you may be enabled to do so. I want very much to see you and to talk with you, to know how you are all fixed for living. I feel some uneasiness about Ned. His health is too delicate for the Service. For White and me there need be no fears.

I do believe that White is as good a soldier as will be found in the Confederate Army. He acquitted himself handsomely. I am glad to hear from Washington and that the County is rid of Federals and that our friends can have even temporary relief from them. I expect to remain constantly in the Service until the war is over. Indeed life would be no blessing to me were I out of it. You cannot more heartily detest those who are always complaining and finding fault than I do. Many of them once boasted of being Secessionists but they are getting more than they bargained for. They were great fools to be so easily duped.

I have safely passed over my third fight and with a constitution equal to that of any other man, I will cheerfully march on until in the language of Colonel Gunter, "the war ends or my friends all quit fighting the Federals." I am not at all discouraged because of our failure to take Helena. Our Brigade lost many taken prisoner. Colonel Bill of this Brigade was taken with 167 men and 21 commissioned officers. Kings and Hawthorne also lost heavily.

There is nothing we stand in need of. In fact I often think that although our fare is hard, its better than that of many poor families, especially those whose husbands are in the service. These men, most of them poor men, deserve the sympathy and respect of all truly Southern men.

Affectionately, your son

Wythe

40. Judge David Walker to his son-in-law, J.D. Walker, who was probably in Corsicana, Texas, at the time

Camden, February 10th 1864

David,

I have leisure to write again but with a limited supply of news. Our latest dates are files of Federal papers of the 26th inst. The Democratic resolutions of the Federal Congress were of a highly national (and I had almost said rational character). The vote upon them stood 56 for to 76 against them. Longstreet is represented as marching upon Knoxville.

The troops there under Foster are represented as being in great distress for both food and clothing. We have still later news that Longstreet is in Knoxville, but no certain information. Maximilian is said to be in Paris and it is stated in the Fed papers that he has by letter formally and unconditionally accepted the Mexican Crown. I do not like the tone of the French papers about the French occupation of Mexico. They seem to oppose further attempts to hold that country.

An order has been issued to hold an election in Arkansas on the 28th of March to remodel and reestablish a state government. So there will be similar moves made in other semi-subjugated states mainly for the purpose of getting the electoral vote for Lincoln. Beyond this there is nothing of interest in the papers. I see Rosencrans goes to Missouri and Schofield to Knoxville probably to supersede Foster.

Our own Army here, as in most places elsewhere, is inactive. The Cavalry still in advance. Sam Buchanan was in to see his Wife about the first of Jan. He was prisoner on his way in and carried to Lewisburg where he was kept a week or two and turned loose. He says that the Feds there were not very stringent but by degrees were getting possession of all that was left in the country. Mr. Lewis' negro women all went off taking with them a good bed and clothing for each of them. Mr. Feemster's family had been sick but were, the time I left 20th Jan., in total health. There were 200 Feds under Major Hunt at Fayetteville, one company of Indians at Mr. Bean's on Cane Hill under Vann, and one company at Rhea's Mill under Wilhite.

The country is being wasted away and soon will be a wide wild waste. They will ere long learn that it is better to put all on the hazzard - better even to lose all - than to sanction the being pillaged at different times, and by degrees, under the pretense of friendship. A desire, as they profess, to restore a people to their right and privileges under a united government. It is quite likely that when the country no longer contains property to invite plunder that it will be deserted by the masses of the enemy and leave lean and hungry vultures to croak and flap their wings over desolate plains and dead.

Doctor Stevenson left here this morning for Kentucky. I procured for him a pass to cross our lines. He says his family are in want and that he will try to get them out when he gets money for them. I don't know - I have done him a favor, perhaps the last. Got a letter from Col. Gunter, he was in Sevier County, well and hopeful. Spoke of the Doctors getting his family out.

This is about the eighth letter I have written and have never received a line in reply. Perhaps you may be saying the same of me, but I cannot believe that you have been so unfortunate. I am uneasy about Nannie and Jennie and shall continue so until I hear from you.

The Boys are well. Heard from Ned lately. Will hold this up untill tomorrow for later news.

11th. The court today has had a exciting time - a writ of habeas corpus issued by the circuit judge demanded the body of Buffington, a steam boat captain who is before us upon trial on charges of grave character. Amongst others, aid in the escape of a Federal spy, secreting him on his boat after his escape, tampering with the guard, inciting and aiding him in deserting and various other offences. Our officers returned that the body might be sent up with the writ, but in no event to deliver him to the court or suffer an escape. We are fully backed by the Military, and you may be sure he will be tried.

The news today up to the 29th ult. is very favorable. Pillow, Island Ten, and Island 62 near Napoleon, as well as Corinth, are in our possession. Longstreet's victory near Knoxville is certain. Vance N. Cardia troops took a large train, got a vast quantity of clothing. Fishback is Col. and in command of the 3d Ark. Cav. and has gone up to Dardanelle. Our pickets go within two miles of Little Rock. Not a line from you yet - This is my last til I hear from you.

Truly

D. Walker

41. Judge David Walker to his children, who were then refugeeing in Corsicana, Texas

Camden, Ark.,
Feb. 19th, 1864

My Dear Children,

Your letters of the 27th and 31st ult. came by the last mail. You may be sure I am glad to hear from you and cheered with the intelligence that you were in no worse health than when I left and were preparing for work. The hope that you will ere long qualify yourselves for adversity, should such still continue to drive us to extremes, reconciles me much to the probable fate that awaits us. I should hardly say probable, in the midst of cheering news from all quarters, but at best we may exist for several years as exiles.

With your letter came my dear boy Ned who got leave of absence for five days and traveled including back trip 145 miles to stay one day with me. I wish you could have seen him, rough not quite ragged. He had been waiting in the street for two hours for court to adjourn, and got in just as I was going in to dinner. Of course he dined with me, and when I took him round and seated him by my side I felt prouder of my seat than if my guest had been the Lieut. General. He is fresh and hearty, heavier than I ever saw him. After dinner I went with him to camp and had all three of my boys together. That was the last day of my 58th year and as happy as I remember to have spent; my children all, every where, in the discharge of duty.

This is the first of a New Year and comes up under very altered circumstances. In view of my expenses I have for some days been economising so as to live in comfort and at the same time within my means. One simple meal out costs five dollars and is only a little less by the month. My candles cost me \$1.00 a piece, and I save them to use when compelled to write or when company comes in. Fire is about \$1.00 for each, so that I take the wood off when I leave my room and cover the coals up to keep fire till I get back from Court. My room and bed are very good, and fare excellent, with milk, butter and vegetables plenty. So with all you see I am doing very well as to fare and better than even that, I am happily associated.

The news from all quarters encourage the belief that our Army have done well in Tennessee and Virginia. Corinth, Pillow and Island 10 and 62 are abandoned, and Memphis in imminent danger.

The Little Rock papers notice the arrival of Lafayette Gregg there. It is also stated that Washington County held an election for delegates to the Little Rock Convention and cast one 20th of the Presidential vote or about 100 votes.

Feb. 29.

Court is just over and the mail closes in an hour so I will conclude my letter. The news this morning is very fine. I send you a copy of the dispatch received here which is received as probably true, as we

had before heard that these armies were close together and it is official. "Shreveport 19" 9 P.M. General S.D. Lee has met General Sherman in battle, defeating him completely. Lee killed, wounded and captured 6000. Sherman is now retreating rapidly in the direction of Vicksburg, and General Lee pursuing. "Official and reliable".

I send papers by this mail which will show you that Longstreet has been victorious at Knoxville, or near there, our forces pressing them. At Little Rock 150 gray backs resisted the Feds. Great riots in Illinois. Great public demonstration in favor of Vallandigham in Cincinnati. Best yet, and reliable, California utterly repudiates green backs. 20,000 men ordered there. But I will stop as I send you the papers.

David, I wish you could get Roane to me but don't send him unless there is a safe sure chance. I have written to you often and fully about home matters.

Now, David, my little son David, I will write especially to you. How often I think of you, and regret that I have devoted so little time to your instruction. You are now nearly old enough to go into the Service. This is your last year at school until the war is over. It may be the last you will ever have to learn. Think of this, and let me tell you that when I was your age I knew as little as you do now, and had just one year to go to school, and I tell you I made that count. I was in four classes and recited in them all. You have a clear head equal to any boy. And now my son, now is your time. After this year your country will call you to fill a brother's place or stand by a brother's side - and if I live I too will be near you in the hour of deadly conflict. Write to me my son and let me hear that you will use the present time usefully to yourself and the future honorably for our Country and our liberties.

Affectionately

David Walker

Camden, Arkansas
February 20, 1864

Dear Sisters,

I know you can never pardon my neglect for remaining silent so long, since my return indeed I have no excuse to offer. I reached Camp safely about the 10th of January having spent much time on the road on account of bad weather and from a desire to visit some of our friends on the Rock. I came by Dr. Deans and Mr. Wicksons and spent a day with them. I was treated very hospitably by them. The ladies inquired particularly after both of you and requested me to remember them affectionately when I wrote.

I then came on to Rondo where I found John. He was in good health but looked somewhat broken since I saw him last. I wanted him to go out and see you but he was too busy at that time to get off. He was on the eve of starting to Jefferson on a trading excursion.

Papa has been here for some time and is busily engaged in holding Court. There is much business to do and he is kept closely confined for the work of each day. He was here yesterday and showed me letters he had received. One from Mary and the other from David.

He has written several he says and wonders if you have received them. I am glad to learn from your letters that you are getting on so well. I do not know when I will see you again. I want White to go as soon as I can get him off. Its doubtful when that will be because of great difficulty in getting furloughs approved for longer than ten days.

Ned left here yesterday morning. He came down from Washington to spend a day with us. I suppose you have learned if any of Papa's letters have reached you that he is now Lieutenant of his Company. He was elected without opposition.

I am very comfortably quartered now. I have a good cabin with a brick chimney and hearth and am living as comfortably as you please. The boys all have good quarters, but few of them in tents. Camden has been quite a cheerful place since my return. Numerous parties have been given and we all enjoy ourselves as finely as the circumstances will permit.

The Federals have not left the Rock. An occasional scout of theirs occasionally comes out but are soon driven back.

We have been fortifying here and have made this place as strong if not stronger than any position on this side of the River. The Army here although small is in fine condition. Fine health and spirits, no desertions nor dissatisfaction. I think we will be enabled to make a successful stand here.

I have not received a line from any of you since my return. Write often whether I write or not. I have much to engage my time and hope that neither of you waits to receive my letters before you write. A courier calls at the door from General Fagan. Must go. Will write more soon. White joins in love to all.

Affectionately
Wythe

To

Miss Mary and Miss Annie Walker
Corsicana, Texas

Camden, Ark.,
Mar. 24th, 1864

Dear David,

I received three letters lately. The latest 7th inst. I was glad to hear from you and particularly that you were well, and had some prospect of making a crop. The weather has been for the most part dry and cold here, and vegetation no better developed than it was early in February.

I believe I wrote to you since Gen. Holmes was relieved from service in this command. Gen. Price in his place. Since then very active preparations were making for an advance, and before this time our whole force would probably have been going North but for the invasion of the Red River country, and the disgraceful surrender of Fort DeRussy which rendered it necessary in the opinion of General Smith to call off all of our infantry (near 5000) except Gen. Fagan which is here, but take it for granted they will act in concert with their army in Louisiana on Red and particularly as soon as they learn that we have no infantry they will advance. We have sent forward four thousand cavalry, and are today nothing over forwardsome 30 miles. The Cavalry it is thought, will go to or across the Saline River. Indeed may go to the Arkansas if circumstances make it proper to do so. One of the hospitals is being moved back to Lewisville. No other indication of a move any way this morning. Should any occur I will add a postscript this evening before I send this off.

Our latest dates are the 12th from St. Louis. There were two serious riots in St. Louis on the 8 and 9th caused by the attempt to draft, which has been suspended (however) until the first of April. Rosecrans has issued an order forbidding any one to even threaten to sue a soldier or officer for an alleged trespass upon a citizen, unless application is first made to him, and permission specially granted. I suppose that may be called a gross assumption of military over civil authority, worse I believe than I ever heard of before. Chase has withdrawn and leaves the field open to Lincoln. Fremont is the candidate of the Radicals, and has the inside track. He is the candidate of the American Jacobins. McClellan will likely be run by the war democrats, and the peace democrats under the leadership of Wood may also run a candidate. Of all of them I think Fremont's chance good, perhaps best. The whole German population and press are for him. He is the St. Louis Democrat, with Wilson, Sumner, Phillips and the extreme abolitionists.

The issue between Lincoln and Fremont be that, the temporizing policy of Lincoln will be cast aside, and an open absolute unconditional emancipation of the slaves will be required, irrespective of the decision of the Supreme Court. The confiscation of all Rebel property, renting an absolute fee simple estate, instead of a life estate, in the real estate confiscated and the disfranchisement of all rebels.

Now this extreme policy suits the excited violent feelings of the masses, is in harmony with Northern prejudices and gives Radical candidates the advantage of denouncing all moderate men as Copperheads or sympathisers with the slave holders.

In the French Revolution the contest at the onset arose between Royalists and Republicans, but soon the Republicans divided into moderate and extreme parties. The first were for a constitutional republican Government, and were called Girondists. The extreme party, Jacobins. Afterwards in America the Republicans divided into Whigs and Democrats. The Democrats were the American Jacobins, and now the Black Republican party have divided and the Radicals (the Jacobins) and Democrats stood, in this, that they can appeal to popular prejudices against Constitutional Government. I conclude therefore that, as the Girondists fell, and as the Whigs fell, so the more moderate Republicans will fall, and to what extremes in time of revolution they may go, no one can tell.

Lincoln is progressive, and he must progress rapidly to overtake the Germans, and higher law Republicans. In reply to a committee of free negroes from N. Orleans who waited upon him and asked permission to vote, he said that if it was necessary to crush the rebellion he would prevent Rebels from voting, and would permit free negroes to vote, that he would consider the matter, and that he saw no reason why a free negro should not vote as well as a white man.

Sherman is said to have gone up to Memphis with a large number of transports loaded with soldiers. I suppose to reinforce Grant. Johnson is said to have advanced to Missionary Ridge. If this is true we may account for Sherman's going to Memphis. Longstreet and Morgan are said to be together, and not near Richmond as represented, but according to the Federal accounts, advancing upon Knoxville. They say a terrible battle may be expected there in a few days, and this too may account for Johnson's advance upon Grant which may in fact be to prevent him from giving aid to Knoxville.

We have late couriers from McRea. He says he has 1200 men and only awaits ammunition which has been sent him. We heard of the train of pack mules after they had crossed the Arkansas River, we may expect that it has reached him safely. Walker Moore just got back from about Napoleon, he has been there all Winter is in fine health, and is reputed one of the bravest and most prudent soldiers in this service. He expects to join his old Company (Riefs) and will then be with Ned.

I have sent your papers and for fear they might miscarry inclosed them in envelopes. I also subscribed for the Telegraph for you, have you received them. I send other papers today, but will send no more until I hear whether they reach you.

Affectionately,
D. Walker

P.S. Evening -- Col. Sowther has got in with 800 men from towards Gaines Landing. No news of the Feds, all quiet. I have no doubt but that we will hear from them in a few days. I will write often if not on the run. The boys are well. Dick Bean is here, not in Army. Gold is up to 167. N.Y. Tribune says it will go to 180. Says it has been caused by their disasters in the Winter campaign.

44. Judge David Walker to his son-in-law, J.D. Walker

Camden 26 March

David,

I send you the valuable parts of the Republican of the 8th inst. You will see that it is said England and France are coming to our aid, by recognition. The Missouri Delegates have just got here. They say that the negotiation by France is a fixed fact. The latest papers talk strongly of Federal War with France. The delegates bring cheering news from the other side. Johnson has certainly advanced, but is not yet to Missionary Ridge. Longstreet is certainly preparing for a move back into Tennessee. Sherman has certainly gone to Memphis with a large force supposed to reinforce Grant. Judge Adams, late of Helena, has been made Brigadier General and is assigned to the Command of Forces North of the Arkansas river. He is to remain with his force there, organize and fight them in the rear. McRea is ordered here. Our Cavalry force is far in advance, and no doubt the feds are in a great excitement. No news of an advance or even preparation for it on their part. This may, however, be the stillness which precedes a storm. No news from Shreveport. There is a rumored fight in Virginia at the Rappahannock in which it is said we were very successful (doubtful news).

I am very sorry to write that I am likely to have another spell, and this may be my last for some days. The boys are well.

Affectionately,

D. Walker

45. Judge David Walker in Tulip, Arkansas, where he was helping care for his son, Capt. J. Wythe Walker, who had been wounded in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry.

Tulip, May 12th 1864

Dear Children,

I hope some of my letters have reached you. In my last I could only say that no important change had taken place in your brother's condition. Now he has fairly passed another (the inflammatory stage) and has fully entered upon the healing process.

The wound is very large and discharges a great quantity of matter. This of course is reducing him, and presents an issue between the health and strength of his constitution, and the daily exhaustion of the system in throwing off the bruised matter and the forming of new parts in the wound.

We strive to get stimulating, healthy diet and to encourage an appetite. The struggle must go on for at least ten days before we can write confidently. Thus we have passed safely to the last condition of the wound and confess that I feel some encouragement and hope is gaining confidence. Yet on account of his wound being both on the back and sides we find it hard to compose him and many hours are spent in trying to find for him an easy position to rest.

Major Gould, a lawyer from Leon County now of Walker's Division, was wounded in the thigh (no bone broken). He occupied the room with us until yesterday. His wound so much better that he was moved forward.

I have been quite sick, this is my first day out of bed. I am very thin, about as large as I was twenty years ago.

I have direct news from across the river. Rumor says that Ross captured 6000 Feds at Snyders Bluff near Vixburg. That Chalmer has taken Memphis. Banks is said to be surrounded. Our whole forces (infantry) are going to help capture him. Mrs. John Adams told me that the Federals under Col. Alexander went out towards Batesville and came back badly whipped. It was stated whilst Maj. Adams was with the staff at the Rock, that Dardanelle had been taken by our men, with 450 Fed prisoners.

Your Brothers are well, be patient, look on the hopeful side of affairs, do your duty, and be prepared for any dispensation of providence.

Affectionately

D. Walker

Federal papers up to the 30th ult. say that a fight is about to take place in Virginia. They spoke of May enlistments for 100 days.

46. Judge David Walker to his children, who were refugeeing in Corsicana, Texas

Tulip, May 15th 1864

Dear Children,

I have a chance of sending you a letter in Washington to be there mailed. This is Sunday evening. Wythe is alive, his wound still doing well, but he has chills and fevers, and is growing weaker. Our whole effort is now to keep up the system, and as the change calls my individual experience and care into requisition I go into the task of nursing with more confidence. There is nothing so bad as to preclude a hope of his recovery.

I have read Little Rock papers of the 9th and 11th inst. and Chicago papers of the 3d inst. Our successes have been great. At last accounts Gen. Thayer was on a forced march up the Arkansas. Shelby was up near him. The Arkansas River is up and transports and one gun boat has gone up. Fishback beat Murphy for United States Senator.

My health is not good. I have never got a line from you since I left Camden.

Truly

D. Walker

P.S. Dear Nannie,

I have up to this time written nothing specially to you, but remember my child that I think of you as often and as tenderly though as of any of the others. I know that my love to my children stands as a unit. Each one of you has all my love, all my care, only that I apply myself to those in greatest need. I wish to save you all, to see you all comfortable and happy. White is with me day and night, and so faithful, so affectionate.

Affectionately

D W

47. Judge David Walker to his son-in-law, J.D. Walker

Major Adams
near Washington (Ark.)
Aug. 2d

Dear David;

I have written three letters since sufficiently recovered to write without having received a line from you. I am still slowing recovering. My greatest ride has been two miles and at the end of that I am quite willing to rest. Have you heard of Roane yet? Have you got Patrick home, are all well? How do the negroes get on, do they appear satisfied?

You will see the late order of General Smith to enroll slaves. I am satisfied it is unconstitutional. It is a thousand times worse than impressment, because there is no valuation or security for the return of property, and no remuneration for time. Should it become absolutely necessary, I suppose one of mine will have to go, unless the distributing them for hire will exempt which I hope will be the case.

I have not heard from Ned. White was well a few days since, so was Walker Moore. Our friend Steven Lewis is dead. He died at the Salt Works in this state. Peter Stout and Ebenezer Hannle are also dead.

Last news from Fayetteville of July reported 500 Feds at Fayetteville. We have been delayed in this department from a general move upon the Arkansas River for lack of ammunition. That difficulty is removed, the trains are rigged up, and many pontoon boats made. These signs and a letter from a Knowing one at Camden induce me to believe that a forward move will soon be made.

I have seen the Cincinnati Enquirer 23d. Early only made a raid into Maryland and had not so large a force as was represented by the Feds. He did not take the Relay House or Washington. The latter place was threatened and skirmishing went on for a day or two near there. Blairs and other houses burned, but this demonstration was only intended to arouse the Feds whilst a large number of stock and a numerous train was taken out. Grant at last dates was still before Petersburg, but had effected nothing. Early had landed safely with his plunder. Johnson has been relieved and Hood put in command at Atlanta. Yesterdays news reported three days fighting at Atlanta, our troops had the best of it and still stand to their works. The Feds had made a destructive raid into Alabama. I send you Long's speech to his constituents and other papers. General Boyd (Union) resigned, made a speech (secesh), was arrested and imprisoned.

Yours affect'ly

D. Walker

P.S. I have read speeches in the British Parliament. Which induce me to believe that our recognition is at hand. At last even Lord Russell says that in 30 days an occasion may arise for such action. France will unite.

48. Judge David Walker to his son-in-law, J.D.Walker

Greenville Springs
August 23rd, 1864

Dear David,

I have been here for several days, wrote to you from Brownstown and sent papers. Have not heard from home. My health is not good, the water is doing me no good, and I fear nothing will relieve me. My constitution is giving way and I may not get well. Doctor Pollard is with me. I am not confined to my room, but can find no food that agrees with me.

Mr. Purdy is just from Fayetteville, was wounded and confined there for a month or two. He says Mr. Pegram was compelled to leave his family and go to Springfield to save his life. That he got his money from St. Louis but had to take green backs. Mr. Carnahan's family were well, so was Mr. Freyschlag's and Aunt Jane. Ned was with Brown. Alf Wilson's house was burned, and came near burning Mrs. Duke in it. The door was broken open just as the roof fell in. All inside was lost. Gunter's house was burned. Mrs. Gunter saved part of her household effects. Tuck Smith captured 60 horses at my place. They were carried there to graze on the meadows.

Brooks with Stirman's Battalion goes up today. They are at Memphis Borough 20 miles from here. Brooks will take command of all the troops up there. We have news that Little Rock is evacuated. It is confidently asserted, but we wait confirmation.

I will not stay here long. As soon as I can travel even ten miles I will try to get back to the army I suppose. I will do as well there as anywhere. Write direct to Camden.

Affectionately

D. Walker

49. Nannie Walker to her father, Judge David Walker

Fayetteville, Dec. 23rd, 1866

Dear Pa

This is perhaps the last letter I will write dated '66. It seems but a short time since we reached home and one New Year has come and gone and another almost here. Time is swiftly gliding away. I can scarcely realize that tomorrow will be my 29th birthday. When I wander back to my childhood the time does not seem long untill I arrive to the latter five or six years which have dragged very heavily.

Tomorrow will be White's birthday. I had intended making him a nice cake for the occasion but was disappointed in getting the eggs, so he will have to take the will for the deed and a kiss.

Ned and I attended David's examination yesterday. He acquitted himself very well, indeed I was proud of his manlyness. His speech was not original as I had supposed, but he deserves credit for the delivery. They will have 5 weeks vacation. David will spend the time with us. I have received two very pressing invitations from Serena and Mary Sutton to come and spend Christmas with them which I have consented to do and the next week Sisters, David and I will spend papering and fixing up a comfortable room for you.

I am sorry your health is not good. It must be because you are confined so closely for at home you had a very active life. I know you miss old Roane.

In your letter to Ned you spoke of having written in regard to your trunk key. We never received the letter but sent the key according to directions by last mail. Hope it will reach you safely. You must have needed it badly.

George has just returned from his last trip to Ozark. He and Jack Wallace carried a load of apples down. I have not learned whether it was profitable or not.

Col. Gunter reached home this evening. I don't know whether he brought it but there is a very current report in town that Col. Gregg was killed on a boat between Fort Smith and Little Rock. White sent Mrs. G. word that you had written some time since that you had heard such a report but did not believe it.

I am ashamed to send you this badly written half sheet but it is all the paper I have. I will get some tomorrow and next week give you a better letter.

I thank you for writing to me so often for I prize very highly any scratches of your pen. All is well and all join me in love to Cousin David and yourself.

Your affectionate child,

Nannie Walker

Hon. David Walker
Little Rock, Ark.

Fayetteville Jan 17th 1867

Dear Papa

Today's mail brought from you, a letter for Ned and one to David directed to me. Nannie also received a very lengthy letter from you this morning dated December 30th. Until these letters came, we had not heard from you but once since David's return, and I had begun to feel anxious concerning your health, which was delicate when he left you, your letters have relieved my anxiety, I am indeed glad to hear of your improved health, and regret to tell you that we are not enjoying the same blessing. For a week every member of our family (David and I excepted) have been suffering with very severe cold, we were fearful Wythe had really a spell of pneumonia for some days he was so sick, he is now much better, last night Vol was quite sick, had a chill in the evening, followed by fever which did not abate during the night, he is also better. Sue has fever every evening poor little child when will she be free from sickness. Nannie is unwell with cold nothing more, and all I trust will soon be restored to good health.

This has been a season of colds with many. I have heard of many cases of sick men produced that way. Miss Daniels is seriously ill, evidently rapidly declining with consumption. She has relinquished her school and unless a great change takes place will not live long. Poor lady, it made me sad when I visited her to see how little she appreciates her condition. She speaks hopefully of recovering and with the greatest regret gives up her school. Sophy Freyschlag has charge of the younger pupils. I don't know what will be done for a teacher, Mr. Pettigrew has declined teaching again in this part of the country, expects to go on the river near his mother in law. I have heard Mr. Mitchell from Cane Hill will take his former school. I believe he is thought to be well qualified for teaching.

Ned is yet on the river, we expect him home in a few days. White stays at night with brother David at the farm, all goes on well there, I believe. George has been chilling. With that exception I believe there has been no sickness among the negros there.

We have made some change in our domestic arrangement this year, we have hired a negro woman, one formerly owned by Judge Davis. If the children had remained well I would have rather continued to do my own work, but they are all chilling and I found I could not manage without some help. I am very glad that I have gained some very useful knowledge by actual experience and am now prepared when necessary to do for myself.

David has delayed returning to the Rock on account of the children's sickness. They are better now and I hope he will go. He is very unwilling to give up his practice here and it is with reluctance that he will return. I think it is the best for him and although would fain keep him with us, if it were best, will be glad if he returns.

Will you not be home soon? I don't know whether this will reach you before you start up. At all events you will not miss a very interesting letter. I am tired and will write no more.

Good night, dear Papa.

Your affectionate

Mary

Hon David Walker
Little Rock
Arkansas

51. From David Shelby Walker, governor of Florida, to his cousin,
Judge David Walker of Fayetteville, Arkansas

Executive Office
Tallahassee Florida
May 23rd, 1867

My Dear Cousin,

Your letter dated this day last month is received. I need not tell you how much I am rejoiced to hear from you after so long a silence.

Governor Call died in September 1864. My brother George died August 7, 1866. These are two sad dates which I can never write except with a bleeding heart and tearful eyes. Governor Call left two daughters, Mrs. Long and Mrs. Brevard, both residing here and doing well.

My brother left two daughters and four sons. With good management they have enough to make them comfortable. I have three sons and a daughter. My two oldest boys were in the war. My youngest is about eleven years old, my daughter about sixteen years old, is at school at the Convent in Georgetown, D.C. My wife is still living.

Yes, I am nominally Governor of Florida, a most unpleasant position at the time.

I sympathise with your grief for the loss of your noble son in battle but say it may after all be best. I believe I would prefer to see all my children in honorable graves rather than slaves.

I am much gratified to hear good account of my dear brother James' son, David. Please present my affectionate regards to him and tell him it is my particular request that he will write me all about himself and family and also all about his dear sister Mary (how my heart aches and throbs at the mention of her name!) and each one of his brothers. Impress on him.

I saw John, as noble a boy as God ever made, when I was in Kentucky about ten years ago. I have not seen or gotten a letter from either of the other children since I left Kentucky in 1837.

Your old sister Courtney's daughter Lizzie has been on a visit to me the last few weeks. She is a lovely girl, well educated with good manners and that equable cheerful disposition which her sainted mother, true pride of relations and the charm of every society she entered.

What has become of Cousin Emily? She is the only one of Uncle Wythe's family that has ever at any time favored me with a letter. Your brother in law Mr. Duncan spent last night with me. He is a God fearing hard working Christian minister.

I have appointed him State Superintendent of Education for the colored people in this state and he labors with zeal and success in season and out of season.

How many of your family are yet living and which are they. Tell me all about them and remember me affectionately to them all. My dear Cousin, your letter has opened up a well in the fountain of my heart which has long been closed and I now shed more tears over this letter than it contains words.

I have received and read with much pleasure your opinion on the validity of judgements surrendered by the State Court of Arkansas between the time of the Secession of the state from and the time of its return to the Union.

I think your position well taken and ably argued, but alas for our poor country -- what avails the Constitution now? Nevertheless, around the wreck of the Constitution and the crash of liberty it is a legitimate source of pleasure to you and myself to know that we have so conducted ourselves to obtain and hold through all changes the undiminished confidence of the people amongst whom we have lived for so many years.

Exactly what I shall do when I am relieved from the cares of office by the recent Legislative Congress, I have not yet determined. My disposition is to move away and not remain as a disfranchised man in a country in which I have for so many years been a judge of the Supreme Court and Governor. But where shall I go? Do tell me. Please write again soon.

Yours truly,

D. S. Walker

52. Unidentified. Possibly from a member of the family of Joseph Walker, governor of Louisiana, to one of Judge David Walker's sisters.

Carrollton La.

April 19

My precious sister,

I have just received your dear letter of Mar. 30. It laid I doubt not in the office a month, before our unaccommodating Post Master would give it out, for you must remember we have Masters in Louisiana who fill our offices and rule us with an iron rod.

I was so rejoiced to hear from you dear Sister once more, for I, like you, did not know where to direct a letter to you. I never received dear Sallie's letter and do not know her address. Oh how I would love to put my arms around you this morning and talk all our troubles and conflicts over. Mingle our tears and comfort and encourage each other.

How many sad memories your dear letter has called up. Our childhood when father and mother were near. Our girlhood when all was hope and joy. Our womanhood, when settled down with the loved one of our hearts, we anticipated a long life of happiness.

Oh how all have been blasted. How soon sorrow came and one after another of its prospects wanes and have washed all away. And now in our old age we have no earthly hope. But thank God we have hope that reaches beyond this vale of tears. There will be a reunion of loved ones there, to part no more, and the time for this meeting with you and I dear Sister has nearly come. Let us be patient then a few more days and our Father will take us home. Oh may we be found ready.

Dear Mary and Martin, oh how I sympathize with them. I know, your children and grandchildren are a great comfort to you and am glad you have so many. How we would all rejoice to see them and be with you a few weeks, but this cannot be. Why is it that you can't come and stay a year with me. Oh Sister, you don't know how glad we would all be to see you.

When you see Cousin David give my best love and tell him there is no one on earth I would rather see. I have often thought of writing to him but have had such hard times and so much trouble that I could not. Tell him he must write to me. I want once more to read one of his long cheerful good letters and to know he still thinks of his old cousin for I thought he had forgotten me.

Dear Sister, I have almost filled my sheet and have told you nothing about what you must wish to know. Well Sister to you I will state facts and before I do I must say Oh how wonderfully has our way been opened up. I believe that God does it and to him be all the glory. After the surrender Mrs. Bently moved to New Orleans as soon as George and I could by sewing make enough to bring her over, she came to see about my little all in Vicksburg. She found my home occupied by a Yankee surgeon and his negro wife. After much trouble, they were gotten out and my once beautiful and happy home, once worth ten thousand. She

was glad to get two thousand for the wreck. She at once bought me a nice little home here for which she gave two thousand leaving us without a dollar. I went to work with my needle and in three months made enough to bring my two children, Prentiss and Georgie, not having enough to also bring my furniture. By the time I could send for it Brenhaw had been burned by the Yanks stationed there and my furniture was lost in the fire. George got a situation in the public schools here and we soon by industry and economy furnished our house and educated my children. My little house now shelters Cim and children, Prentiss and our selves. Sally and all the children make games as mama writes. Prentiss is with me. He is in a drug store and I hope will make a good druggist, he has the mind.

Georgia spent last winter with us. Her health was much improved when she returned in April. I never hear from those in Kentucky. All seem to have forgotten me. Oh did they know how much I long to see them.

God bless you, dear beloved Sister. Write soon. Love to all and from all. God bless my Sister.

Your sister

Geoge

Gordonsville Logan County Kentucky
August the 26th, 1867

Cousin David,

Having recently met with a lady of some intelligence who informed me that she was from Arkansas, and also that the middle and poorer classes of the State were still suffering greatly from the effects of the late War, and most especially widows and orphans, who are persons of refinement, but whose educations, though sufficient to fit them for good society, are entirely inadequate for teachers, and who, consequently, have the very bread taken out of their mouths, by Northerners, because they are better qualified for that business.

It occurred to me in consideration of this information, that I would write to some Southern gentlemen of high position, in order to direct their attention to the necessity of education for teachers, a number of refined young ladies in poor circumstances, who having already a considerable stock of general information would in a short time acquire such knowledge of mathematics and other essential branches as would qualify them to find suitable business in their native South, instead of being trodden-down and starved out by Northerners.

Having included you among the few gentlemen whom I propose addressing on this subject, I hope you will not deem impertinent the few suggestions here given, and should they meet your approbation, you are no doubt a much better judge than myself as to the best method of making them practical, so I will not presume to advise concerning this part of the subject, but only offer to render some little assistance by educating free of all charge some two or three such young ladies as I have mentioned, among whom I shall be happy to receive your niece, Anna Pope, provided you are willing, as no doubt you are, to pay her board in this neighborhood.

Had I a house of my own I would not think of charging her, but as I am only a boarder myself I am compelled to limit my desire of helping her to the simple offer of furnishing her books and teaching her without charge. And if you will agree to pay her board I think I can find a place for her near my school house, in a very genteel family for one hundred dollars a year, at the end of which time she will be qualified to get a good salary for teaching.

Please to send her immediately, we live in three miles of Whippoorwill Depot to which point she can come by rail-road, and when she gets there, she will only have to let Mr. Furgason, who lives on the spot, know that she is a niece of Aunt Emily's and Aunt W. 's who are particularly friends of his, and he will bring her over or invite her to remain at his house untill he sends us word to come for her, just as she pleases.

Traveling, by steam-boat and rail-road, is now reduced to such an orderly and genteel system, that there can be no impropriety in her coming alone.

And now lest you may be surprised by this sudden interest manifested for my cousin, Anna Pope, whom I have never seen, and who in all probability has seldom if ever heard of me, I feel compelled to communicate to you some things respecting her situation which of course you have never heard, or perhaps you would not have suffered. She is now (as I am informed by a lady from Fort Smith, Arkansas) taking in sewing in that place, as a means of support, but finds it impossible, on account of competition, to live without the charity of friends, who being only in moderate circumstances and having relations of their own dependent on them, cannot afford to do much for Anna Pope, consequently she is trying to get a situation as teacher among the Indians, at this I felt greatly shocked, knowing that the disposition and habits of that savage people, are entirely unsuited to an unprotected lady of refinement. This I told the lady asking why Anna did not get a school in Fort Smith. To this she replied that though a young lady of talent and rearing she was not qualified having but superficial information in science and being entirely ignorant of Arithmetic.

Your friend

Helen C. Hawkins

54. To Judge David Walker from his son David

Fayetteville, Arkansas
December 29th, 1867

Dear Pa:

I received your kind letter yesterday, and sit down to answer it. I wrote to you some time since, but had not an opportunity to send it to the office. I came in Wednesday and spent the Christmas with sister, and was here when your letter came; but must go out this evening to school.

Mr. Mitchell has a full school. He will continue the session two months, longer than he intended, which will bring the close of the session about the first of March. Then I think he intends farming.

White and I went down at the farm the other day, partridge netting. The fencing is in good repair. The string along the river, which encloses the meadow, is a splendid fence. There is a new fence running North and South, which separates the field that Andy tended and the ditch field, from the one which Montgomery cultivated.

We have had very warm weather lately, and came very nearly losing the last killing of hogs, but so far it has been saved and Mr. King says "that it is sound". Today we had a bit of snow, and there is no more danger. I received a letter from Ned last week. He and Sue were well. He has his corn gathered, but very little done on his home. As sister is writing to you today, I will not write any more now. All are well.

Your affectionate son,

David Walker

55. From Whiting Washington to his cousin Fairfax, then living in Shelby County, Illinois

Fayetteville, January 13th 1868

My Dear Cousin,

I have just seen a letter that you wrote to Judge Walker. In it you mention the conversation that we had in Marshall Texas when I was on a visit to you in 1865 about the Legacy that was left to Uncle Fairfax, your father and my father in 1812 by Lady Fairfax who died in Bath in England in 1812 and in it you want to know about the leaving of the Legacy to Uncle Fairfax and my Father.

I will give you all the information that I can. In the first place I will begin with the marriage of our Grandfather and Grandmother who were married in Bath, England, I forget what year, but our Grandmother was the Sister of Lord Bryant Fairfax, the Father of Tom Fairfax who married your Father's and my father's Sister whose name was Louisa, which would make him, I mean Tom Fairfax our Cousin and Uncle, and was the Son of Lord Bryant Fairfax, whose Wife was the Lady left the Legacy to Uncle Fairfax and my Father.

The information I got was from my Mother and a letter I received from Uncle Fairfax who said that a Dr. Page told my Grandfather Smith whose name was Charles Smith that he congratulated Uncle Fairfax and my Father on their good fortune that Lady Fairfax the Wife of Lord Bryant Fairfax had just died and left them £ 10,000 a-piece and this conversation took place in Frederick County Battletown Virginia in 1812 and in a letter that Uncle Fairfax wrote to me some years ago he mentions the subject but I cannot find the letter now and I am afraid it is lost and the old family Bible burnt up during the war.

The marriage of our Grandfather and Grandmother Washington was in Judge Walker's family Bible which was destroyed during the War, but all these facts are true as I had them from my Mother and the family Bibles and I will be qualified to them if necessary because they must be true as I had them from my Mother herself.

You mention an Englishman had told you that the Estate had not reverted back to the Crown of England, and was waiting in Boston to know about it. I do hope that the information that I have given you will enable you to get our first rights and you my dear Cousin please use all the means in your power to gain it.

Since writing the above I found the family Record in which the marriage of your Grandfather and Grandmother is and her name was Hannah Fairfax and his name was Warner Washington. There never was but one family of Fairfaxes. Please give love to Cousins Adeline and Camila and receive them for yourself. Give my respects to Dr. Buck and please write soon.

I remain your affectionate Cousin,

Whiting Washington

Furgason's Station, Logan Co., Ky.
October 25th, 1870

Hon. David Walker
Fayetteville, Washington Co., Arkansas

Dear Sir,

Mr. William A. Washington, the Son of the late Fairfax Washington of Logan County, Kentucky, came to me some days ago and asked me to assist him in getting a legacy from England.

Since then I have found that you are allied by marriage to the Washington family, and having heard you spoken of by my friend, the late Colonel James Volney Walker as a very astute man learned in the Law, I have determined to address you in behalf of Mr. Washington. Lady Fairfax, the widow of Sir. William Fairfax of Belvoir, Fairfax County, Virginia, died in the month of February 1812 in the City of Bath, England, bequeathing by will the sum of fifty thousand pounds to her two grandsons, Fairfax Washington and Whiting Washington, sons of Hannah Washington of Fairfield, Frederick County, Virginia.

This bequest was made during a war between the United States and England, and many years elapsed before any knowledge of it reached the heirs. In the meantime misfortune had reached them and left them without the means of prosecuting their claim to this Legacy.

None of the heirs of Mr. Fairfax Washington, so far as I know, are in a pecuniary condition to present this claim.

This Legacy has been accumulating in the British Exchequer for fifty eight years, and probably amounts at present to more than four millions of dollars. This is a large sum of money, and well worth a vigorous effort to obtain.

I understand that your wife is the daughter of the late Whiting Washington. You, therefore have a personal interest in this matter. You have also the legal knowledge and the pecuniary ability to investigate and present this claim.

It seems to me necessary that we have a copy of the Will of Lady Fairfax. I think Wills are proven before some Ecclesiastical Court in England, whose officers are appointed by The Archbishop of Canterbury. Your legal knowledge will doubtless enable you to tell the title of the proper officer to address to obtain a copy of said Will.

I should be glad if you will obtain said copy and send me a duplicate of the same, and give me your views of the best means of obtaining this Legacy.

I wrote recently to the Hon. O.P. Morton of Indiana, soon to be U.S. Minister to the Court of England, asking him to take the oversight of this matter and have it collected and forwarded to the heirs in America for the sum of 20 per cent on the amount recovered.

I respectfully refer you to Mrs. John Walker, formerly of Logan County, Kentucky, for my standing as a gentleman. Please address:
"Dr. A. Rist, Furgason's Station, Logan County, Kentucky."

Respectfully,
Dr. A. Rist

57. Judge David Walker to his daughter Mary

January 11, 1868

My Dear Child,

I received your letter yesterday, it has been a long while on the way, and although glad to hear from you was very sorry to hear of Wythe's sickness. Do you know my great weakness for that child, that childish anxiety about him, it is, that apart from the other considerations quite sufficient to make me love him.

I feel that he is somewhat the representative of my lost son. I can at least repeat the name, and make him in some small degree to fill a void which all this world can never fill. You know that I am always advising about sickness, as if I knew what should be done, and will excuse me for suggesting that there is much danger in keeping your room too warm and him too close to the fire. Sudden transitions should be avoided. But the cooler air is far more healthy and healing. Never have his cradle near the fire.

I hope he is better by this time, but will anxiously look for another letter for it was wrong to write me of his situation and not follow it up with further intelligence.

There has been snow and ice here for fifteen years. It is today and there is a prospect of warm rain. The fair ladies of the City turned out yesterday and decorated the City Hall for the accommodation of the Convention that is to meet tomorrow.

It is magnificent and beautiful and displays that exquisite taste and delicate finish which could alone be conceived by Woman. It will not be a great day, but I will not be there, there is much keeping in Court tomorrow. I have not been in the Convention, and do not expect to enter that revolutionary assembly. White comes to see me. He is well.

I expect to be detained here till the middle of next month. My love to the children. Tell Sue that I have a snug little corner in my heart for her love where no one else shall come. You say Vol is up early and feeds the hogs and attends the traps. That is alright. It will make him hardy and strong. Tell him that I have two pigs, that they are the very finest from Kentucky, they are in a cage and I will get them up the River and home with me if I can, and then he and I will go into partnership, but he must learn to call hogs just as I do or we both cant feed them. I am well.

Affectionately

D. W.

58. To Judge David Walker from a kinsman in Kentucky, another David Walker

Franklin, Kentucky
August 30th, 1868

Hon. David Walker
Fayetteville, Ark.

My Dear Sir and Kinsman,

Through some unaccountable delay your letter to my address dated May 10th, 1868, reached me only a few days ago and be assured this is written promptly and soon after I had the pleasure of receiving yours.

It is true as you say we have no personal acquaintance, but I trust that a common ancestry and, may I not add, common misfortune leave us not strangers.

In the Spring I was for a short time a candidate in the 4th Judicial District and I suppose it was in reference to this that you saw my name mentioned in the Bowling Green paper. My candidacy was brought to a sudden termination by the act of the Legislature redistricting the state and placing Allen County in a district in which I had but few acquaintances and with counties of doubtful political status. About three weeks ago I moved from Scottville to this place which is so short a distance from Scottville, only 25 miles, that it makes it a move without a change.

I was doing a very good practice at Scottville which I hope to retain by attending regularly their County and Circuit Court and in the meantime build up a business here. Franklin is a thriving place of about 3000 inhabitants and growing rapidly.

My father has raised a large family all of whom are grown except the two youngest girls, twins, now in their 13th year. I have a brother William R. married and living at Hickman, Kentucky. The oldest E.G. is now Circuit Attorney of Allen elected this month. Another one has read medicine and is now practicing with father in Allen, who though bent a little with age still retains much vigor and energy.

Mother is hale and hearty though somewhat showing signs of old age. Another brother is reading law at Scottville. This one like myself marched under the "Lost Banner" for four years, as a matter of course he stands first among them all with me, and I am glad that he was more fortunate than myself and came out without being maimed. Two other brothers I have going to school in Logan County and two sisters married, one living in Logan and one in Allen County. This with my own name ends the list of my father's family.

I will not enter into any account of relations here for fear of being tedious as I would be forced to be long, except just to say that Dr. Paris and Dr. Evans both live in Russellville, while Dr. Foster lives in Louisville.

Your old friend Mulligan is still living though quite feeble. I bore him your message and when I did the old man's eyes filled with tears and he said, "Write to David, I remember him and wish him a long life and a happier old age than I have enjoyed". The war went hard with the old man. He believed the South was right and for it was punished by loss of property and heaped up insults.

Judge Underwood, as you know, is quite old and cannot be here long. He returns kindest regards. I will close this by a request that I be remembered to all relations in your bounds. If a worthy "Iron Cladder" has relieved you of your position on the Supreme Bench, I hope you will find time to write me again. May I not hope you will write me anyhow, but if you should claim exemption on account of age, I trust you have this answered by some younger member of your family. And now believe me Sir, with much esteem and respect,

Yours truly,

David Walker

59. J.D. walker to his daughter Sue. Postscript probably addressed to Mollie (Mary) Pegram

Van Buren Ark., 25 Nov. 1869

My Dear Daughter

You don't know how glad I am to get your letter and that of the other children. You wrote me a good interesting letter and I thank you very much. It does me good to know what is going on at home, and you tell me so many things that the others overlook, that it pleases me mightily.

I am glad to learn that you have commenced studying French and hope that you will learn to talk and write it well. But then I can't understand it and you and Mother can make as much sport of Father and the balance of us right before us and we know nothing of what is going on.

There are a great many Indians here. Many of them testify in Court and we have some big smart Indians, who stand by and tell us what they say. They are called interpreters. If it were not for them it would be all French to us.

Vol must let you ride Nelly often but be careful not to fall off. Bless you my Daughter.

Goodbye,
Yr affectionate

Father

(on back of letter)

Dear Mollie,

All of your letters came together and I had a real pleasant time reading them. It makes me feel happy to hear from all of you and know that you are all well and think of me in my absence. You must all have missed little Wythe when he was gone to Grandpas especially his sticks and noise. He makes us all stand about. It seems Mc is doing a thriving business biding. When I get back we must all go out and help him.

I'm coming home soon, and then we'll have a good time.

From your affectionate
Uncle

60. Judge David Walker to his daughter Mary

Niagara Falls N.Y.

July 21st 1870

Dear Mary,

I need not tell you where we are. You see by the heading that I write from Niagara. Crossed Lake Michigan at Detroit and was for the first time out of the Union (though Congress has been legislating me out for reconstruction for the last five years).

Going across her Majesty's dominion to Lake Ontario the country is generally very level, nowhere six feet above the Lake. Hambleton on Lake Ontario is a beautiful place and for miles along the lake shore is a high state of cultivation. We reached this place 5 oclock in the evening and after supper walked over to the suspension bridge and saw the fall. The vast of waters pouring over the rock 150 feet, where then it appeared white as ice. Where it poured in a deep current, it was greenish blue. You know it comes from Lake Erie, but then you can never appreciate lake scenery from description. We go over to Canada side tomorrow. Will visit Lundys Lane where General Scott fought the British and was wounded. But why write about these things now. Wait for another time.

We are all tolerably well. Will soon be at the famed city of Boston and have some hopes of success.

Affectionately

D. Walker

61. Judge David Walker to his grandchildren

Little Rock, Arkansas
November 30th, 1875

Wythe
Jack
Dave
George

My lads, how are you this cold morning. What have you been doing? Have you traps, do you catch any birds? I would like to have some of them. I could eat them for breakfast and dinner but not for supper. What do you think I get for supper? Now guess! Coffee? No. Tea? No. Meat? No. Bread? No. Fruits? No. Well, what then? Now guess! There you give it up! None of you can guess! So I will tell you. Oats, ~~oats~~, OATS!

There now did you ever hear of man's eating oats? Well it is all the time oat meal mush! At Cincinnati they have a hulling mill as they also do in Scotland and hull the oats and grind them into meal. Now boys you never had such mush as it makes. I can sit up late tonight, and then sleep most of the night. Do you remember how hard it is for me to sleep when at home, how often I get up at night and light the lamp? It was all because I had no oatmeal mush!

Mrs. Clendennin has this made for me, and will keep me well to get up home and spend Christmas with you. Well what do you think? The Legislature has passed a law that we shall only keep one dog. You will have to kill all but one. Now which will you keep? Ring, Virgil or Rover. I expect you had best keep Rover, he is the best Opossum dog.

Well, I forgot to ask does Vol go hunting Opossums now, and tear his clothes and wear out his boots. Tell him to quit it and get his lessons at night, or I shall not think well of him.

Get Sue to write for you and let me hear all about it and how little Nelly carries on. Wythe, I depend on you to make Nelly gentle. Pet her, ride her, be gentle with her. Never whip her, feed her yourself. You know she is for a little girl that Mrs. Clendennin pets as much as you can Nelly.

And now boys I want the pleasure of the nearest one of you to get a long slip of paper. Stand straight and let your mother take the measure of each of you, that I may know how tall you are. And then across the shoulders and around the waist, so that I can tell how to fit you all off with Christmas suits.

Look out for Christmas, Old Santa Claus will be here before I can get your letter, and I am afraid will sell out before I hear from you. Fix up the measures, write me hames of each of your measures so that I may be in time.

There has been a big show here. I sent you one of the bills. I went to see it but did not stay long. I saw the wild beasts. I send you another picture of them. It is for Jack.

Now boys I have no more time to write and will close by requesting that each of you have me a box of chips in my room by the time I get home. You know how good chips make the fire burn.

Go over to your Uncle White's and see Nannie and Lou. Tell them I am coming. And over to Mr. Buckners and tell Jennie and George about it. Nuts, Raisins, Candy, with Whistles and Whips will make a merry time for all of us.

Goodbye my Lads

Grand Pa

Little Rock, Arkansas
Nov. 24th, 1876

My Dear Cousin George,

It has been a long while since I wrote to you, but you must not think that you are not often in my mind and hold first place in my affections. You may say that I have not shown such to be the case by my neglect.

Cousin I am a poor weak mortal, and whilst I have courage to face bravely the vicissitudes of fortune, there are sympathies so tender that it is painful to think of them. What I am, and what I could wish to be are very different things. There now, I will change to something else.

Well, you may remember that I was on the Supreme Court bench after the war and went out under Reconstruction because I would not take the Iron Clad Oath. Well the state has since thrown off the Radical rule, and Democracy is again in power, upon which I was again elected to the same office, and am here now holding court.

I was last summer honored with the appointment of Orator (God save the mark) for Arkansas at the Centennial at Philadelphia, which I accepted, and delivered the address. I returned home by way of Louisville, Bowling Green, Russellville, etc. I stopped over at Bowling Green, made inquiry for old acquaintances. All, all gone, not one left. At Russellville I called to see Doctor Evans, spent the day with him, your sister Martha with us. We had a pleasant day I assure you. Martha is in very good health and quite active for one of her age. Sarah, the Doctor and their children are well. I heard from Sidney. He too was well.

I passed on to see my Aunts Polly and Rebecca. Aunt Polly looks a little older, but less feeble than when I last saw her. Aunt Rebecca begins to show age. Hellen Hawkins was with them, she weighs near 200 pounds and has lost nothing of her relish for satire and ridicule. All were well and in comfort. Your sister Jane is more feeble than any of them, looks older, but is truly a good, noble woman.

My own family are reduced to one sister (Lucy) and John and Martin. My children living and all to themselves. All have homes, all except David, the youngest, married. None of them combat life's struggles for place and preferment with the courage and strength that I would wish them to, and I am called upon every day to reach out a helping hand to them.

Poor children, the old prop upon which they lean will not last much longer. But I leave the subject. God be the guide and guardian of us all.

I suppose your daughters and granddaughters and grandchildren are with you. My love to all of them and to you, my dearest cousin.

Affectionately
David Walker

63. To Judge David Walker from a niece in Kentucky

Butlersville, Ky.
October 1, 1877

Dear Uncle

I received your letter last Saturday. I did not answer it on account of sickness. We have all had the fever.

I am glad you acted as you did, about the house. It was of no value to me, it being unfit to rent to respectable people. If I were you anything that I could make out of it, I would pay myself for the trouble of it, and make the land pay its own taxes if it could be done. I am perfectly satisfied with all you have done, and am very much obliged.

I was very sorry to hear of David Carnahan's condition. I think as you do, that he will settle down after a while and be all right. I have not heard from Aunt Polly and Cousin Helen since last fall, but I suppose they are living on in the same old track, Cousin Helen above-stairs with her books and paintings in the attic like all the world's renowned geniuses. Aunt Polly downstairs with her specks on overlooking her household affairs, and attending to what is hers and wondering what Helen can enjoy in doing nothing from day to day. I suppose two such extremes never lived in one house before.

Your friend Mr. Gilbert Mulligan died about a month ago, he was gradually failing for a year. He died of an infection of the heart and brain brought on by luxurious living. He intended to take a trip to Arkansas and go to see you. He looked forward to it as a pleasure in reserve for him to meet with the friends of his boyhood, but he is gone, though he will be remembered by all who knew him for his genial social nature. He left a wife and two children and one little grandchild.

I wish you could see the two fine boys I am raising. I think they are the finest children in the world but I suppose everyone thinks that about their own. The Doctor's name is George, though John is the name in the Samuels family.

I am very tired of old Kentucky. I wish we could sell out and go west, but there is no prospect. The Doctor makes a good living with his practice, and he can not sell the Mill without a sacrifice now so we will have to wait for times to change.

I have a great many relations living near me, the Popes form a settlement about two miles from here. They are industrious thriving people, and have educated their children well. Em is living with me. She is now teaching the free School in our district.

I hope your family and the connections generally are well.

Your affectionate Niece

Anna Samuel

64. To Judge David Walker from his grandson and daughter

Fayetteville

November 14th, 1877

Dear Grandpa,

We got your letter Monday. You ask me about my pony. She and her colt are at the Farm. I rode her down by myself. Vol went with me.

I did not have time to look at the hogs but Vol was down there a few days ago. There are two of the sows down there that have pigs. There are nine. There are 21 pigs at home. One sow with 8, one with 7 and one with 6 pigs. We had 8 more young pigs at home that died. We took the cows and calves down to the Farm a few days after you left except Reddy and her calf. Mary tried to milk her without the calf but could not. I will feed it and take good care of it. We are all well.

Your affectionate grand son

Wythe

Dear Papa,

I promised Wythe to fill out the blank page of his letter. If I had known he had written so badly I would have made him copy it.

I have kept Wythe and Johnny from school for some time, to prevent them from taking measles, which disease is very prevalent throughout the town and country, and quite a number of Mr. Vaulx scholars are sick with it. At any other time, or under other circumstances I should not object to having it in our family, but as it is, will prevent it if possible.

I have not let the boys be idle, they cut all the wood we burn, and feed the stock, besides spending some time in hunting rabbits and making traps.

I read aloud your letter to the boys. David did not at first understand that it was partly intended for him, and when I read the message to him that "he was still your boy", I never saw such a delighted countenance as his was, and he said, "Did Grandpa say that?" A kind word and a little flattery often works wonders. He has been trying ever since to merit your good opinion. George said, "Grandpa promised to bring me pistols and raisins if I would be his boy and I am his boy".

We are having a delightful day. Indian Summer seems to have begun, from the hazy appearance of the hills and air. Tho' it is late in the season for it, we have had some very bad weather for several weeks, and we are glad of the change. The plasterers have been much delayed. They are putting the white coat on, and will probably be through soon.

Mrs. Buckner is well again. Nannie and the children were here last Sunday. I think George improves a little. His general health is good. He has not had a recent attack of vomiting as he has had for every month since his affliction.

White's family are well. Aunt Lucy and family were, when last heard from.

Yours affectionately

Mary

65. From Whiting Washington to his brother-in-law, Judge David Walker

Fayetteville March 17th 1878

My Dear Mr. Walker

I sit down this morning to write you a few lines as I think that you would like to hear from me. You cannot tell how sorry I was to hear that you were so very sick and I was very uneasy about you for some time until White and David went down to Ozark and White wrote home that you were mending and gradually getting well.

I do hope that you will be well soon again and be able to get home so that I can come and see you as I do want to see you very much and if there had been any person to have taken my place when White and David went down to Ozark I would have tried and got a horse and went with them to see you, but as it was I could not. But when you get home I will not be long before I am over to see you, rest assured, and because you are my Dear Mr. Walker are my best and truest friend that I have got on Earth now because I do love you.

My Dear Mr. Walker as a dear brother always will do all I can for you in every way that I can and now hoping to see you soon again is my prayer of your affectionate brother

Whiting Washington

Please if you can write to write me a few lines any how and tell me how you are as you cannot tell how very anxious I am to hear from you. Please give Ned and Sue and John my love.

W. W.

66. From Sue Walker in Fayetteville to her grandfather,
Judge David Walker, probably in Little Rock

Home March 21st 1878

Dear Grandpa -

I have been unable to write to you for some time on account of my eyes being sore; they are not well yet but are much better than they were. I have suffered very much with them in the last two or three weeks.

I hope you are feeling better. I do wish you felt able to come home for then I think you would get well soon. It seems so long since you left home; and I know the time must hang dearly on your hands being sick and away from home though you have every attention possible.

I suppose Aunt Nannie and the children are with you now and I know it is a great pleasure to you to have them. Ma thinks it very hard that she is the only one of your children that has not been or cannot be with you and if she consulted her inclination I know she would be; but she also wishes to be guided by your counsel and her own sense of duty. But I trust it will not be long before you are with us again.

I had a letter from Father yesterday. He has not been well since he started on the circuit. I always dread to see him start to Boone Court for he is nearly always sick while there. We look for him home Saturday week. He will stay only one night and then go on to Bentonville.

Vegetation is very advanced here. Everything looks like Spring. The peach trees, apple and plum are all in full bloom and give promise of abundant fruit provided we have no more severe weather.

There are some very pretty flowers too in bloom in the yard and garden and some of the roses you brought from Little Rock are putting out leaves. We have had a great deal of work done in the yard tho yet there is more to do. It has been fortunate for us that while we have been so impatient for your coming home that we had ample employment for our hands which always makes time pass more quickly.

Now that you have resigned public life and are coming home to stay with us, I claim the privilege of being your special nurse and attendant and hope to make myself useful in reading and writing for you and in many other ways. Your room is all in readiness for you and only lacks your presence to make it look cheerful and homelike.

The children miss you very much. George and David are constantly talking about you and wanting to see you, they make very fair promises of being very good when you come home.

I have nothing of interest to write and would only weary you if I were to write more. All join in love to you and a prayer for your speedy recovery.

Your Affectionate Grandchild

Sue Walker

67. To Judge David Walker from a kinsman in Kentucky

Franklin, Kentucky
September 9th, 1878

My Dear Sir,

I did not intend that as soon as the business matters that brought us into recent communication were settled that friendly letters should cease to pass.

On her return to your State, Miss Emma Pope commenced her trip at this place staying one night with my family. I was away from home.

I hope Judge the rest following your retirement from public office has been beneficial to you and that the Autumn of 1878 will find the man of seventy-three winters hale and hearty and prepared to make a trip back to the place of his earliest life.

We should all like very much to see you and hope we could make you feel that it had been good for you to be here. My father, some years your junior, expressed much pleasure at hearing from you and of your success. Father though sixty-eight is still quite hearty and will now often ride twenty or twenty-five miles in a day to see a patient. He has two son physicians with him at Scottville.

When last I saw him your name was mentioned in our talk and he requested to be kindly remembered to you as did Aunt Paris. I am as clannish as a Scotchman and have the very greatest reverence for the older members of my family and have a desire to know more of the history of my ancestors. You and Davis S. Walker of Florida and once its Governor, and my father Dr. A. S. Walker of Scottville, Kentucky, and Mr. Paris, now of Russelville, Kentucky, are now the oldest members as I understand it of the different branches of the family.

I hope you will so soon as convenient write me what you know of your own immediate ancestors. I intend writing to Governor Walker of Florida soon and learn from him what I can on the subject.

There is much sympathy felt here for the scourge stricken people of the South and charitable action has been taken here as well as elsewhere through our County for the relief. May God help those people, my people, in this their last affliction.

Trusting that this letter has not become tiresome by reason of its length, with a hope to hear from you soon and with kindest feelings for you and yours,

I am your friend and kinsman,

David C. Walker

68. To Judge David Walker from a member of his mother's family

Gordonsville, Kentucky
December 14th, 1876

Cousin David,

Your letter and Centennial Address came to hand in due time. Aunt Walker was so much pleased when the Address arrived and so much elevated by family pride in contemplating the fact of her nephew being the person called upon to address The Assembly of Nations, that she stood five inches taller in her low heeled slippers than she had previously stood in high heeled boots.

I who am no aristocrat and consequently destitute of family pride, simply thank you for sending me more geographical information than I might otherwise have obtained.

In answer to your request about a list giving the ages and date of deaths of your grandfather Hawkins and his children it can be complied with so far as ages are concerned and mostly deaths also, but I have not in possession any record concerning the ages of the Call family. Governor Call died during the War when there was no direct communication between our state and Florida. No private letters could pass by mail during the time. When the War was over his daughter wrote to me speaking of his death, so did Governor Walker but neither of them mentioned the date of his death.

Dr. Call died several years after the War also. When his death was communicated to me the date was not mentioned. Respecting my Grand Uncle Daniel Call of Virginia of course I know little or nothing about him except a few items that I have seen printed in old records concerning the past wherein it is stated that he and his brother in law Chief Justice Marshall were among the earliest patrons of Henry Clay. Daniel Call must have been very old when he died. I think he was living after the year 1840, but when he died I do not know.

My Grandmother Call died a few years before my mother was married, exactly how many I do not know, neither do I know how old she was. Neither do I know at present who has the old family Bible containing the ages and deaths of the Walker and Call families.

Aunt Walker has preserved a manuscript containing the date of her mother and father's marriage, and the ages of all the children. It reads as follows:

James Hawkins and Lucy Wyatt were married December the 22d, 1779. Their children were:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Hawkins | born October 3rd, 1780 |
| Richard | April 8th, 1785 |
| Martin | August 24th, 1788 |
| James | May 10th, 1790 |
| Mary L. | August 16th, 1793 |
| Emily W. | May 3rd, 1796 |
| Edmond O. | October 3rd, 1799 |
| John | October 23rd, 1801 |

It seems from the record that some of the older members of the Hawkins family had double names given to them after the recordings of their births. I cannot otherwise account for their having them.

Concerning the date of their deaths, as some of the dates were not found in the house, Aunt Walker sent her servant Henry to clean up the ground around the tomb stones that they might be accessible, the briars were cut away for that purpose. The present landlord of the old homestead sent his servant over to tell Aunt that if she had nothing for Henry to do he would be glad if she would keep him at home. Whereupon Aunt sent for her nephew James Hawkins to go to the graveyard and take the inscriptions on paper. He did so and remarked there was a tomb stone at the head of John Hawkins grave which did not correspond in record with other dates by five or six years. Aunt says that some years ago, she does not know how many, but not many at most, a tree fell on John Hawkins' tomb stone which broke it and she did not know who repaired it but who ever did made a mistake in the date of his birth. Indeed she did not know that any tomb stone had been set up there since the first one was broken. But she knows to a positive certainty that if James Hawkins transcribed correctly that the present date on the tomb stone is wrong.

She urged me to call your attention especially to this fact because you said that you made your way to John Hawkins' grave and wrote off the inscription, afterwards sending for the date of whose death (to which she bids me call your attention). She says you will perceive that the age of his son John is not correctly stated on the tomb stone. Aunt says that though a little girl she recollects perfectly when John was born, besides she knows that the old family record which I have here copied, as it contains the ages of all the family except the father and mother. It is not essential here with the exception of the two last to write down anything more, except the date of their deaths.

James Hawkins the son of John Hawkins of Hanover County Virginia married Lucy Wyatt of Louisa County. Her father was a branch of the same Wyatt family of which was the English Baronet Wyatt, Virginia's first Governor. James Hawkins and his wife lived some years after their marriage in Richmond Virginia then moved from there to Jessamine County Virginia in the year 1786. Then they moved from Jessamine County to Logan County Kentucky in 1800. Their ages and deaths are recorded on the tomb stones. The memorandum from thence hereafter are by my cousin James who gives those dates as follows:

James Hawkins born September the eleventh 1756 and departed this life January the 2nd 1802.

Lucy Hawkins (his wife) was born January 11th, 1758 and departed this life March the 5th, 1847.

John W. Hawkins departed this life November 1822

Richard W. Hawkins departed this life May 4th, 1848

James Hawkins departed this life December 13th, 1851

Edmund O. Hawkins departed this life September the 27th, 1858

Emily W. Hawkins departed this life November the 6th, 1869

These are the dates of deaths as brought from tombstones. Aunt Walker bids me for the fifth time cite your attention to the age of John Hawkins as on the old family record as follows:

John Hawkins born October the 23rd, 1801

Aunt desires to be particularly remembered to you, and expresses every kind feeling toward you. She's been urging me to write for two or three weeks and every time repeating her wish that you should be good that she entertains none but relation-like feelings and good wishes for you. Your relations here are well as usual.

Very respectfully

H. C. Hawkins

69. Senator J.D.Walker to his son Wythe

United States Senate Chamber

Washington

April 28, 1879

Dear Wythe:

I got a letter from you this morning and though it was a short one, it did me a great deal of good to get it. It made me think that you had not forgotten me.

What is Jack doing that he does not write to me oftener?

Well, my Son, just as I write the above Mr. Pendleton commenced a speech and I stopped to listen. He made a very good speech, but I don't think his views are correct. Mr. Thurman was in the Chair. Mr. Hendricks sat in Judge David Davis seat, Mr. Davis by him. Mr. Bayard in his own and all the prominent Democratic candidates except Mr. Tilden were in view all the time!

You must write to me right off -- you must tell me exactly how high you are, how many inches around just under your arms. How many inches around the waist and how many around the hips -- also the same as to Jack, Dave and George. Do this at once. Get Sue to measure. I want to know how much you have all grown.

How are the pigs and chickens and pigeons? I saw some pretty chickens on Sunday at Brightwood, where we were dining and thought of you, my dear boy. And if it would be fair could have caught a pair for you.

Give my love to Ma and the children and write me often.

Your affectionate Father

J. D. Walker

70. Senator J.W.Walker to his wife in Fayetteville

Washington
March 19, 1879

My Dear Wife,

Yesterday the Extra Session was commenced and the new members sworn in. The galleries were crowded and it was a scene of interest, a Democratic Senate once more.

We will not select Officers, that is Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, etc. until tomorrow and it may be deferred for several days. We all hope for a short Session. A firm stand will be taken on Appropriation Bills along with the Repealing Acts of the First Oath and Suspension Law will be passed.

The Democratic Senators personally think that there will be no veto by the President, but I am inclined to think that his party will force it on him, but that is all conjecture.

I dined with our kindfolk Mr. Call and family night before last. They are pleasant people. You would be pleased with his wife and in fact, Darling, you would be pleased with the people to associate with here. A Senator's family here about like a Senator's family at home, want and have good associations.

Last night in company with a dozen Senators I dined at Mr. Bayards' Senator from Delaware. 6½ the hour for Dinner. That is to put in appearance. It was a pleasant affair, Mrs. Bayard is a plain sensible woman having as little show about her as possible. Not near as good looking as my own Wife and over not such in conversation as well.

Darling, the nearer we get to greet people the less we appreciate as a general rule. This cannot be said of Bayard. He is greater the closer we inspect him. Plain, easy. He is a model man.

At the right in the room adjoining me is Mr. Buckner's friend Williams. He remembers "Charley" as he calls him and speaks well of him. He is an old friend of my fathers. Was at Frankfort at school when his and mine were in the Kentucky Senate together and says that he has sat for many times listening to their conversation. He is an indomitable talker and now and then when I am busy, or want to be, talks too much.

I love you for writing to me such good letters. I had the blues until the last one but feel better now. My health is constantly improving, take a bath every morning and that improves me. Have had no need for mustard, ammonia or physic of any kind.

I am very busy, am getting letters every day by the score and have to reply to many of them. Will write to Sue tomorrow. Then write Vol and Wythe. Love to them all. I hope and pray that Pa is better. My love to him and kisses to you and the children.

God bless my darling Sue and Boys.

Yr affectionate Husband
J. D. Walker

71. From Senator J.D. Walker to his son Wythe

Washington, D.C.
May 10th, 1879

My dear son Wythe,

You have not written to me for a long time. What's the matter? Are you too busy gathering strawberries, or do you work too much in the garden? Don't overwork yourself! Four hours on Saturday is enough, especially if it's a pretty day. And you know, fish don't bite well on Saturdays. Have you planted any watermelons and cantelopes? If so, whereabouts? You must keep all the weeds out, for with the fruit scarce it will be mighty nice to have melons along in the hot days of August.

How are your banties? How are the pigeons? How are the pigs? And how does everything look? You must write to me. And be certain to spell your words right. It's true it's nobody but "Father" you are writing to, but you must remember that I keep your letters. And when George and Dave read them after a while, they may make fun of your spelling.

Does Vol read much law? Tell him to stick to it, that now's the time for him to learn something. Is Jack going to school with you? And is Dave? Dear Dave. I'm almost afraid for him to start unless I am at home to know how he is treated. I think I had better bring him here with me and let him go to school here. Ask him how he would like it!

How is Aunt Nanny and her children? I do hope George is better. Have they moved up to town yet? Give my love to Auntie. I miss my Spring trips to her house and the good dinner after fishing.

How is ma looking. I do hope that you are all good to her and keep her from being annoyed. Were the apples killed as well as the peaches? Tell me about the plums, the cherries, about everything. Rattle away like you were talking. You know how to do that.

God bless my boy, your affectionate Father

J. D. Walker

Bloomington, Benton County, Arkansas
April 29, 1880

Dear Children

It is with feelings of peculiar pleasure that I write. I have thought of you often and with much tenderness. I hope you have made yourself useful to your Aunt Mary, and also spent your time pleasantly. You are in her care, under her protection, and members of her family. I am sure she will give you the very best advice she can, and take great pleasure in seeing you appear well upon all occasions; she will treat you just as she would have your mother treat her children under similar circumstances. I do not think she will debar you from any company or society which she thinks would render you happy or promote your interest, therefore, talk to your Aunt Mary freely about what would be best. If you want to go to see any of your relations always ask your Aunt Mary's advice and permission. If you want to go anywhere else, never go without first consulting your Aunt Mary; and then try to get your Uncle Jeff, or Lee to go with you.

I can not express the deep anxiety and solicitude I feel for your future happiness and welfare. Keep your hearts warm and your consciences clean. Never neglect any known duty. Little by little you will find you have won the esteem, confidence, and even love of others by doing right. Read a chapter in your Testament every day; it will refresh you, still the wild throbbings of your hearts, calm your feelings, warm and purify your nature, and enable you to enjoy the remainder of the day; and it will prevent the care, bustle, confusion, and business of the day, from crowding all that is beautiful, all that is lovely, all that is tender, all that is gentle and kind from your minds, and beclouding your intellectual faculties. Go to preaching as often as you can. Always respect and keep the Sabbath.

Your mother and I have been fixing the frames around the rose bushes, and tying up the honey-suckles this evening. They are beginning to look beautiful. I think they will be in full bloom before long.

Calvin is very anxious to see you. I will let him come up as soon as I can. Sue, Wythe, Jeff, and Sophia would all be delighted to see you, they are all well and in fine health. Nancy is at Mr. Kinnon's, she was well when she left. Little Ally is beginning to crawl, she is growing sweeter and sweeter every day; shall I kiss her for you? Or would you rather kiss her for yourselves; most persons prefer doing their own kissing.

Give my love to your Aunt; show her this letter; it will make her feel more inclined to talk to you freely upon any, and every subject which may come up while you stay with her.

Your father affectionately,

Martin K. Walker

73. Senator J.D. Walker to his daughter Sue

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 15, 1881

My Dear Child,

From sickness and business I have been prevented from writing to you as often as I would like, and have not done so since your very pleasant trip to St. Louis.

I hope you enjoyed your visit and am glad that you went. Patti is thought to be equal to anybody in singing. I never heard her although she has been here several times and will be again soon.

I received your mother's letter of the 11th this morning, and am glad that she is better and hope that she is well by this time. It keeps me so uneasy when any of you are sick and it seems that none of us have been very well this miserable winter.

Your mother's idea of my fine living here is amusing. I would not give one meal at home for a dozen such as I get here. I get a poor breakfast with 25 cents and then can't leave to go to dinner and have to take a lunch at the Senate restaurant. No fruit, no kraut, no preserves and cream, no corn bread, no cabbage. Simply coffee and light bread, and ham and oysters. I never want to see or smell another oyster! There is almost anything at the Senate restaurant, but even a simple meal costs one dollar and we can't help ourselves.

I hope your flowers are doing well. Write at once what shrubs and flowers you want. I expect to start for home as soon as we adjourn and want to bring them with me. I have a fine variety of garden seed for you from the Botanical Garden. The others I sent were from the Agricultural Department.

The Tariff is still under discussion. We hope to finish it in its present shape tomorrow. You must write to me often. Kiss ma for me and cheer her up. I am very anxious to be with you again. Tell George that I love him more than almost anybody.

God bless and protect you all.
Your affectionate Father

J. D. Walker

74. Senator J.D. Walker to his son David

Washington, D.C.
December 14, 1881

My Dear little boy Dave,

I received Ma's letter containing your letter and Wythe's. I got one from Jack in the one a few days before. I have thought I would write to you first.

You give such a good reason for not saving your money for Christmas that I will send you some in time. I will send you two dollars, but don't spend it all on others. Use one half of it yourself for your own behalf. You know what that is. I'll send the money in time and you can do just what you please with it, so you don't hurt yourself.

I have wondered what you have been doing. Are you trying to learn to write? You must learn at home, but it is best that you should go to school. Tell Ma that I think it best for you to be at school. You are getting to be a great big boy with a big heart and a big head and I wish you would have them both cultivated.

How about the traps? Have you caught any rabbits or partridges? The pigs must be kept out and you must catch a heap of rabbits and birds. Does Sue keep as sweet as ever? Hug and kiss her for me and hug and kiss mama a dozen times for me. Kiss Wythe and Jack too.

Now be a good boy as I am glad to hear you have been. My health is much better than when I left home.

God bless you my dear little boy. I am
Your affectionate Father,

J. D. Walker

From your letter I fear that my dear mother ----- herself too much.
I hope she will suffer her children to take charge of her domestic ---
----- and such repose as suits her age. Farewell, my Father, my Mother,
my Sisters, my Brothers, Farewell.

David Walker

Letter addressed:

Fayetteville; A.T., 7 April
25 cts

Jacob W. Walker

Scottsville, Allen County, Ky.,
by Nashville, Tenn.

75. David Walker to his father, Jacob Wythe Walker, in
Scottsville, Ky.

Fayetteville, 3rd April 1834
April 6th. Still well.

My Dear Father:

When I arrived at home from the Arkansas Circuit last week I received your letter of the 8th Feby. It afforded me much satisfaction to learn that you were all well, particularly that Mary and Margaret had recovered. A letter from Dr. Paris had left my mind little at ease about them. You say Mary looks more blooming than usual! May that bloom be lasting as she merits, is the honest wish of her Brother. As I have written to you not long since, I should not now write so soon, but for the purpose of atoning for the error I committed in (referring) you to the letter of a third person for an account of this country. Your reproof was just. I thank you for it and will without ----- to repine at what is past. I will atone so far as I can for my thoughtlessness.

Washington County was obtained from the Osage Indians in 1827. Its first settlements were made in the spring of that year. In the winter of 1828 it was formed into a county of 50 miles square. I have made a map of the county principally from my own observation. I represent the Southeast corner and the Northwest from information. The balance I have explored almost as thoroughly as I ever did Allen (County, Ky.). Where I have marked Prairie on the map, you may generally consider it valleys of from two to four miles in width between low mountains or knobs. I would here remark that the knob indicates the quality of the prairie. It is not uncommon to see one half of the knob covered with walnut, large sycamores even on the top, and other rich growth, and limestone ----- on the other, post-oak, haw-bushes, sandstone, and you may well conceive how the prairie is that joins them. The Barrens are high and tolerably level. The mountains on the north and northwest are high. The (soil) is rich, particularly near the Osage Springs. The timbered land as noted on the map is high and the timbered land growth walnut abundance, large cherry, hackberry, etc.

Cane Hill, see map, is about 4 miles square. It is a high timbered (up)land once thickly now thinly covered with (cane), soil 2 or 3 feet deep, small mulberry, walnut, hackberry, locust, grapevine, etc., etc. Southeast part poor broken mountains. Our population will nearly or quite double itself this year.

I am well. I have made not one enemy in the county. Tenting, have met with no loss greater than one nightcap, one crevatt. From calculations made yesterday in a letter to Uncle D. from my notes, etc. --- Notes \$341. Accts \$277. Total \$618. Yesterday evening after writing to Uncle D. I got a fee of \$50. Total \$668. Highest fee \$75, lowest \$5, and but few under \$25. I have spent on the Circuit about \$60 cash. My board when at home, self and horse, \$3 per week -- absent, nothing. I have been candid and exact in my calculations.

I have been to the grave of the venerable Mathew Lyon. He is buried at the mouth (of) Spadery on the Arkansas River, at a farm he improved there. 'Tis a lovely situation he had selected. Your old friend Mathew Adams is Judge (of) the County Court for Izzard County.

76. David Walker, attending the Constitutional Convention
in Little Rock, to his wife in Fayetteville

Little Rock
9th Jany 1836

Dear Wife,

I have been writing for nearly three hours shut up in the convention hall alone. It is now late and I have just finished drafting a Declaration of Rights (a part of the Constitution). We are doing more business and in better feeling than I expected, yet the exciting question is not yet reported. I am in fine health and have equipt myself with a full new suit of the finest cloth (in Rome I must be a Roman). I have not forgotten your memorandum, have bought every article you sent for and more too. If I can get them on I will send them by the first opportunity.

We have had very fine weather. The peach trees are in bloom, and we have nothad fire in our dining room since I came down. We have eight boarders at our house; Mr. Bean and Whinery of the number. You need not expect me so soon as I thought when I wrote. Send my love to Mama and say that I have the finest black shawl for her in all the city.

I left a letter in my secretary directed to H.R. Hynson, Batesville. Please get it and put it in the next mail for me. Take care of the boys, write to me and I will come home soon as I can. Farewell.

D. Walker

This letter in possession of Miss Gertrude Stockard and was published in Volume I Number 6 (November 1951) of FLASHBACK, periodical of the Washington County Historical Society.

77. Judge David Walker to his mother-in-law,
Mrs. Rebecca Washington

Little Rock, August 7th, 1852

Dear Ma

In contemplating the change of residence of our friends now soon to be made, there is no one who will feel so sensibly as I am sure you will the void to remain henceforth vacant to you, and next to you I feel conscious that I may claim the loss as greatest. Such are the inscrutable ways of God in his providence that he (and we must admit for wise purposes) cuts loose the strongest heart ties which our affections form and in doing so throws us back upon his promises and points us to fitter idols for the heart. Yet no condolence can alleviate and no cold philosophy still the wild tumult of a mother's bosom when being separated from her child. The feelings of the heart must and will have their sway and like the wild commotions of the troubled elements they clear off and the elastic mind takes new hold on other objects on which to hang and offer their devotion.

There is one thought which strikes me with great force; possibly you may not have thought so much about it. It is this, that as this is but a probationary existence in which in a thousand different ways we are called upon to turn our eyes toward God and fix our affections upon heaven, perhaps the most effective after all is that one by one our dear ones of earth are called away and (as we hope) are making that their abode, and we involuntarily follow them there in our affections until we habitually look with increased interest upon it, our affections cling to it and we are spurred on by this quickening impulse to claim an inheritance there.

So it has been with me. One by one the objects of my dearest affection have passed off -- gone there I hope, until this is scarcely in feeling my home exiled (if you please) me and mine are all doomed soon to claim one common home and whether we reside for a short time in this or that part of this earth -- God's wilderness is not so much after all, for whether here or there, care and sorrow, pain, sickness and eventually death will soon overtake the strongest and the best.

I did wish to be at home when Mr. L and his family started but it cannot be. They go; perhaps it is best for them; we will hope so. We stay. The few days that are left for us like all those that have passed will be shades and gleams of sunshine. We will bide our time, (I trust usefully) to the last nor render ourselves the less fit for doing so, by giving over to unbecoming regrets at events necessary and beyond our control.

I am tolerably well. The weather is extremely warm. How I shall get on for the next two weeks, the probable time allotted for me to stay, I know not, but about the first of September, if life lasts, I hope to see you. Kind remembrances to Aunt Lucy and White.

Affectionately
D. Walker

78. Judge David Walker to his son Wythe on the latter's birthday.

Little Rock, Feb. 3d, 1854

My Dear Son

I have been most anxiously looking for a letter from you for nearly two weeks. Would you believe that the last before this was of the 14th ultimo and not a line from any one since then? I have so often and in such earnest terms requested a more frequent correspondence that I can now add nothing more. I am glad, very sincerely glad, to hear that you are all well and that from the general tenor of your letter, our affairs are conducted with tolerable economy. The account with regard to the rail making is too bad. I wish you to say to Mr. Rogers that I look to him to have that work carried on, and the only way to bring about a change is to go yourself into the woods and count the rails made. Just try it every day for one week and let them know that you are setting them down for me and you will see that they will split a third more.

My son, this day has been one of much deliberate reflection. It is, I believe, your birthday, or within a day of it. You are now by the laws of the country, held to be matured in mind and body to assume your place in society as a man and with it the thousand responsibilities that attend it. The high hopes of my young days are passed, its pleasures and its trials and privations have been such as but few situated as I was have ever passed through and yet retained to a great extent unbroken the powers and energy of mind and body. I owe much of this to a temperate life. The difficulties that impeded my march to a place in society were very great. I had not even a common English education. The first property I ever owned I earned by labor. You may remember an old silver watch, I believe I gave it to you. It was only of value because of the manner by which I obtained it. The sight of it brings back days of privation and toil fresh to my remembrance and I may remember them with satisfaction.

Blasted as my hopes have been, I have yet much to live for, but whatever that is, it is intimately and inseparably connected with my dear children. My duty to them, their advancement and happiness are the great purposes for which I now toil. One after another they will come upon the stage of action, be actors for themselves. With what solicitude I look forward to that time as it arrives, particularly as regards your sisters.

Your day has come and the inquiry is, are you prepared to put on the armor of manhood and try the powers of your own mind and with the aid of your own strength to make yourself a worthy and a useful man, an honest man in the true sense of that much abused term.

Far be it from me to flatter you, my son; great allowances are due to a father's partial judgement. But such is my confidence in you that though a tear now moistens the eye, it is not called forth by sorrow or regret.

I shall sleep soundly under the confident belief that whether your place be a conspicuous one or not (and in regard to which I have no great solicitude), it will be alike useful and virtuous. I am happy to be assured that you have a good reputation to build upon and that no act of your Father's, or your ancestors, should make you blush to own your name anywhere. That name was all that my Father had as a legacy for me. It was worth more to me than thousands. I will try to commit it unsullied to you, my child, and with it whatever it may be in my power to bestow in forwarding your pursuits in life. It is now time to begin to settle down upon a course of life. The active life you have recently led in aiding me has been time well spent. You have gained some knowledge of mankind which you must know sooner or later. I will be at home in March. By that time you will have had time to reflect and settle down upon a future course, and you will find me ready to aid you as far as practicable.

I received a letter from your sister. She wrote me that she would be at Smithland this week. Dr. Parris is to meet her there and if anything occurs to prevent it, I shall at once be advised of it, and either you or myself must go for her, or could White stand the trip?

I sent you up some money by Mr. Thos. Wilson. Did you get it? \$190 and a draft on Blakemore for fifty more. Would it not be well to go out and see McKenyon, and if he cannot pay cattle, put the note that part has been paid on in a constable's hands to collect and take his receipt?

If you can get a few thousand rails made over by Williford's near the Cosby place, I will give eighty cents per hundred. Can't you engage some? If Abram is not able to be out, let him make shoes all the time. White does not write to me. Farewell, my son. I am beginning to be somewhat worn, but in tolerable health.

Your Father

D. Walker

79. To Colonel (Judge) David Walker from an old
Fayetteville friend, Wm. Quesenbury

Bonham, Texas,
May 9th, 1864

Dear Judge:

I cannot trust my feelings to attempt to write you. I have just heard of the death of Wythe,

There was not a human being whom I esteemed more. I loved him as well as if he had been my own blood. Never did I more fully realize the horror of war than when I heard he had gone down upon the battle field.

I do not offer you condolence; it would be mockery. I know what your feelings are. The whole world could give you no consolation. Your first-born struck down -- the one perhaps you had a tenderer affection for than any other of your children -- the child that linked you to your young days when you were happy in your hopes of the future -- a thousand associations cannot but weigh upon you and cause you to feel the full meaning of that dark word -- sorrow.

My wife is truly grieved and begs me to tender you her sympathies.

Your friend,

Wm. Quesenbury

Hon. David Walker

P.S. I will write to David and Mary by tomorrow evening's mail.

80. To Judge Walker in Little Rock from his son Ned
in Fayetteville

Underwood
Dec. 7th, 1866

Dear Pa

I learn you have reached the Rock, and know you are anxious to hear from home often. Every thing is getting along smoothly here. I went to Cincinnati and saw B.P. Baker. He declined buying the Minors' land. He said he had concluded to go to Texas next spring and purchase beef cattle. Perhaps some one else may wish to purchase on the same terms you proposed selling to Baker at. If so, I will let them have it. I have got the hogs up from off the mountain. I have put up those that are to be killed and will try and keep the rest about the place, as they are not safe over there and it is impossible to save many of the pigs. Fen Moore has gathered part of his corn only. He complains of not being well. If he does not gather the balance of it in a few days, I will have him to hire it gathered, as it is time corn was gathered. Edmonson is gathering. Edmonson and Barker had gathered about five acres. They accounted for one hundred and thirty bushels, which I think from the appearance of the corn is correct. Boon has got all except thirty-one and half bushels that is due him. Alsbury has his cabin nearly finished and will commence making rails next week, I guess. The men from Benton County did not come for corn. George brought the mules up with him, also your pistols. His sister's children did not come. They were all at Ft. Smith but one grown boy who will come up Christmas. McFadden wrote me concerning my affairs on the River. My three bales of cotton that were ginned but not baled when I left averaged four hundred and sixty pounds. I think there are four bales yet to pick. McFadden wrote me word that the hands I had employed to finish picking my cotton had commenced work but the weather had been unfavorable for cotton picking. He assured me that as soon as the weather became settled and he got able he would hire hands sufficient to get it out immediately. He was unwell at the time he wrote. I feel anxious to hear from there often as one third of the proceeds of my year's labor is yet ungathered, but Uncle John said he would go down before long and see how things were getting on.

I have been considering what it was best for me to do next year and have come to the following conclusion. I think it best for me to remain here during your absence from home; I can do so, I think, without materially affecting my affairs on the River. I thought I would go down home and make arrangements for having a crop next year. I can't rent my place to any advantage without expending more money in having it repaired than the proceeds of the rent would justify. I can't have more than fifty acres to rent without going to the expense of having a great many racks made and put up, and some of the fence now standing repaired. The most I can get would be five dollars per acre if the place was in good repair, and by the time I fixed it up the profits would not exceed the damage that would likely be done the place. I therefore think it would pay to have it cultivated. Three hands will tend twenty acres in cotton and fifteen in corn with some help in scraping the cotton. The expense will not exceed five hundred dollars in making the crop, allowing the crop to be no better than the present

81. Mary (Mrs. J. D.) Walker to her father, Judge Walker

Fayetteville, Dec. 11th, 1866

Dear Papa

By this time you have frequently heard from home, and perhaps are not anxious to receive a letter, but I have a little leisure this evening and cannot more pleasantly employ it than in writing to you. The first wintry weather we have had, visited us a few days ago and seems hesitant to leave us. Yesterday was a severe day. The sun is out today, but the wind which has fair play on our hill is creeping in at every crack and keyhole of our old house. But do not imagine that we are uncomfortable, far from it. Old Sam keeps roaring fires, we have a good supply of the necessaries of life and are blessed with cheerful contented tempers.

Sunday brought us all together (brother David included). All are in good health. I have not seen Aunt Lucy or any of her family lately. Uncle Martin was in town this week. I did not see him. He came in for medicine for his wife and several of his children. I heard they were not very sick. Uncle John gave (on his return from Uncle Martin's) a very pleasing account of his condition, and prospects for the next year. Uncle Martin is very industrious, and aided in all his plans by an equally industrious and persevering wife.

I am yet doing my work and find the labor decreases as I become better acquainted with the mysteries of the culinary art. My plans were greatly deranged for the next year, by Creasy's informing yesterday, that she could not spare Jane next year. I regret it very much. I suppose I should find no difficulty in getting another nurse, perhaps more sprightly than Jane, but am sure I shall not find another child as honest, truthful and obedient. These good traits of character she inherits from her mother. Amy came up yesterday to live with Mrs. Gunter until the last of February when she will be needed at home in preparing for making a crop.

I wrote to David Sunday and hope to get a letter from both of you by this evening's mail. I hear the stay law has been passed, will that not materially interfere with the plans of the lawyers as well as others? I expect David will determine on retaining the office he now occupies. I shall regret very much the necessity for his absence from home, but if he deems it to his interest to remain, will cheerfully acquiesce in whatever he thinks best.

I am trying to write with little Wythe climbing on my lap. He has improved since you left, can stand alone, and took several steps today. Sue and Vol are very anxiously expecting an answer to their letters to you. Have no idea how long it takes the mail to go and return and often ask if I reckon you have written yet.

We are well. The children join me in love to you and their Father.

Affectionately your child
Mary Walker

Hon. David Walker,
Little Rock, Arkansas

one, it will make sixteen bales of cotton besides the tote which at twenty cents per pound (neat profits, that is besides tax, freight &c) would be ninety dollars per bale. 16 bales would be \$1,440. 15 acres corn at forty bushels would be 600 bushels \$300, would make \$1,740. Allowing \$240 for cotton picking leaves \$1000 clear profits. I think I can get McFaddin to attend to it in my absence for the rend of land and if you get home by 1st March I could spend some time on the River while you are at home which would allow me to be there at the planting and scraping of my cotton. I could then return by the last of May, in time for you to return to the Rock, and could be here at harvesting and mowing hay. I could also return in the fall to attend cotton picking while you were here. Boon's son told me he would work for me again next year if I wanted him and he is a faithful hand. Please write me what you think of my plan. There is no one whose opinion I value as highly as yours and know there is no one who would take so much interest in advising me. All well at David's.

Affectionately

Ned

To Hon. David Walker
Little Rock, Arks.

P.S. Excuse the blotted letter. I would copy it but will not have time before the mail goes.

N.

Little Rock, December 30th, 1866

My Dear Child

Your letter of the 23rd inst. came last night and with it came one from Mary. Thanks to both of you for writing and I would answer both but this is Sunday and the church bell will soon ring out with brazen lungs that this is God's day and that he demands of his children that they do him homage on this day consecrated to rest from toil.

There is something in the account that God was all the week making the world and at its close rested which enters on reflection. Omnipotent, all powerful as he was, and yet he toiled six days in making the world, was tired, required a whole day to rest. We are told that God said "Let there be light and there was light." It would seem strange that the same immeasurable power might not have said, Let the world spring into being and it did spring into being. In view of God's power all things must be admitted possible to be done by him, and to be done instantly, and without an effort. We must therefore conclude that he chose to be thus engaged for a week, thus to toil for a purpose, for a wise and good God would not act without purpose, and as he has commanded that we should do likewise it is not unfair to suppose that he intended it as an example for us.

With regard to the observance of the Sabbath I have been very remiss and have set no good example to my children by a faithful observance of it as I should have done. Early habit, and the fact that I have rarely met with a preacher who was to me either interesting or instructive, has caused me less frequently than I should otherwise have done, to attend church. I can never stoop to dissemble, nor appear satisfied when I am not, hence much of my Sabbath time has been spent in reading, in meditation and particularly in getting out in the forest retreats, where I could enjoy natural scenery. I am a devout admirer of nature and confess that I have not been able to appreciate the statement in sacred history that discord and confusion ensued when man sinned. On the contrary, there is infinite perfection and harmony in all things. All bespeak wisdom and goodness, in short that all things are right, and that "partial evil is universal good." The harm that comes to man from vicious passions is in their improper use. Every passion and appetite is essential for our well being and happiness, for virtue, the love of gain, which unrestrained by moral culture makes the thief steal, is the same which stimulates to the acquisition of wealth or aim to the procuring of food, shelter and clothing.

To illustrate my meaning more clearly, suppose you plant a delicate flower seed in rich soil. Warmed by the genial influences of heat, moisture and air, it springs into life and at the same time there also springs up thousands of weeds all around it that grow like the flower, being stimulated by the same rich soil and genial influences. If suffered to grow up with the flower they exhaust the productive properties of the earth, drink up the surrounding moisture, and shut out the light and air from it. The result is evident. The flower languishes and dies with scarcely a bloom, a sacrifice to its exhausting enervating associations.

But if you begin early to cut away the weeds and let the elements of vegetative life concentrate upon your flower, it will grow up rapidly, gain strength and proportion, and in a little while spread out its hands and shelter the ground from the production of weeds, and leave the flower the sole product of the elements of life, in the full development of its beauty and fragrance. And like the flower, the child springs into life surrounded by the vicious weeds of passion, of appetite, and of associations.

The intellectual soil, strong and clustering around the immortal spirit, with a thousand passions and impulses which are to be restrained and kept under as numerous weeds or they will waste and exhaust the productive faculties of the mind until the growth of virtue and moral sentiment will be of but feeble growth if not wholly obscured and smothered by predominating vice.

The mind that is rich in resources like the rich earth will produce a full crop of good fruits, beautiful flowers, or vicious passions and degrading crimes. As you would the young flower cultivate whilst young subdue and chasten the passions by the constant exercise and cultivation of the virtues. There is not a moment of time when this may not be done. Every act, every word, yea every expression of countenance may be made productive of good, soften the hardships of social intercourse, make ourselves happy by contributing to that of others, bring quiet and contentment home to ourselves from a consciousness that we have acted well; in short, grow up in the strength and freshness of the undivided concentrated energies of the mind which like the leaves of the flower will spread out and overshadow the vicious passions which would otherwise have usurped its place.

But I must close. The range of thought is too wide for one or even two letters. I cannot however dismiss the subject for the present without urging you to remember that as our Creator toiled and rested as an example for us, so we should follow this example and so regulate our toils, appetites and passions as to keep them in perfect subjection to our reason. Then health and strength will be preserved and mind and sentiments enlarged, elevated for good. "Health consents in temperance alone, And peace O virtue peace is all th y own."

A merry Christmas to you my dear and my full consent that you may indulge in the pleasures of social intercourse with those of your own age. You will of course never take into your list of friends any of doubtful morals or of doubtful associations, for remember that those who extend their social intercourse to those of doubtful reputation may be strongly suspected of being no better themselves.

Affectionately

D. Walker

83. To Judge Walker from his son David.

Fayetteville, Arks.
Jan. 19th, 1867

Dear Pa

I write you a few lines to let you know how things are going on at Home. School is out and the next session is to commence on the first Monday in next month. Mr. Pettigrew intends teaching down on the River near Mrs. Aldridge's and Mr. James Mitchell of Cane Hill is going to take his place. He is said to be a very good teacher. I did not know whether you would want me to continue going and I thought I would write and see. I have been staying out at Home with Ned since school turned out. Ned is now at the River seeing about his cotton picking. He has been gone about two weeks and it is time he was back.

We have had very fine weather for killing hogs lately but have only killed two. One weighed 275 lb and the other 205. Mr. Alsbury, Welch, and Barker got them. The wheat looks tolerable well. It has been very hard to keep Mr. Holt's cows out of the field. George and I have fixed the fence along the River and the stock have not been getting in lately. Mr. Holt has bought a place out on Clear Creek and will move out there before long.

Uncle Martin's family spent two or three days with Sister last week. They were all well. All are well at Sister's except Nannie. She has been very sick for several days with something like newralergy but it is better now. All send their love.

Your affectionate son,
David Walker

84. To Judge Walker from his son, Charles Whiting Walker

Fayetteville, Ark.
June 26th 67

Dear Pa

I immediately upon the reception of your letter (which I got day before yesterday) I called upon Capt. Reed and received the Scrip which you deposited with him. Of the Scrip deposited Reed had sold (\$48.79) Forty eight dollars and seventy nine cents at 75 per cent making (\$36.60) Thirty six dollars and sixty cents. His account against you was \$47.42 leaving a balance in his favor of \$10.82. He says that you can let it stand until you return. Amount of Scrip turned over to me by Reed is One Hundred and sixty seven dollars and ninety three cents which with the Scrip handed me at the time you started makes \$479.17. This Scrip is to be given in at County Court which sits 2nd Monday in July. I will pay your County Tax and take receipt as you request.

I sued Whit Taylor and recovered judgment against him for \$98.00, giving him a credit for yoke of steers twenty dollars I believe.

Executions have issued in the following cases: Davis Walker Admr &c vs Whitson B. Taylor. The same vs M D Frazor. Same vs George Lewis Jr. David Walker against James M. Tuttle.

Ned came up last week and is now at work in the clover. Wheat has been cut and shocked and Ned says will make between fifteen and twenty bushels to the acre. Corn has a good color and is growing finely. Yesterday we had a good rain which was much needed; it came at a good time as the wheat had been shocked and the clover only commenced. Tis clear now and promises to remain so for some time.

Registration will commence about the 10th of next month. We have a Radical Press up, first issue of paper to come out this week. Col. Harrison will conduct the paper, I think.

There are two companies of soldiers here, in camp on the hill above the Big Spring; two more companies expected next week. Troops will be stationed here permanently, I suppose. I learn that brick barracks will be put up on the hill near Camp.

All well. Vol is over this morning. Says he wrote to you yesterday.

Affectionately
C. W. Walker

Hon. D Walker
Little Rock, Ark.

PS -- Bowie received a letter from Tom Berry at Ozarks, says that Berry wants to buy an acre lot in that place from you; you can see him as you return. C W W

85. Mary (Mrs.J.D.) Walker to her father, Judge Walker

Fayetteville, Dec.8th 1867

Dear Papa

We have not yet heard of your arrival in Little Rock but suppose you have been there several days. I thought anxiously of you during those miserably unpleasant days of your journey and feared you had been imprudent in traveling in such weather, but having heard nothing from you on the contrary, I hope you had a safe if not a pleasant journey.

For some days past the sun has shined out brightly and been delightfully warm. The clouds tonight give promise of another change and we may expect winter in reality. Mr.King was to have killed some of your hogs last week. I have not heard if he did so but expect he thought the weather too warm. Nannie has gotten through with her lard and disposed of it. I heard David say tonight that it was thought pork would sell at 10 cts. None is yet offered in the market.

We have been greatly blessed in this country in having good crops and plenty of provisions. I received a very sad letter from Mrs.Spring a few days ago. She represents the condition of affairs in the part of Miss. as truly deplorable. The crops have entirely failed. Numbers of vagabond negros are left without employment and must live by stealing. She says they have a Radical Commander who encourages the negros to insolence and wrong, tells them he can bring a regiment of colored troops that will wipe out every white man from the cradle up. There are 5 or 6 negros to every white man and from her account the whites must lead a life of terror and apprehension. Poor woman, I wish she and her family were in our more favored land but how long we may be blessed with peace and plenty, who can tell?

Serena spent a few days with us last week while White was from home. She has recovered her health. I believe White returned today, have not seen him. I don't know certainly when he will go to Little Rock if at all. If he goes and I can leave home, I am very anxious to accompany him and have my teeth extracted. They are troubling me again. Have you had yours extracted yet? Please write me as soon as you do and tell me what you think of the gas.

Brother David was here today, quite well. Nannie went with him as far as Aunt Mary's tonight. David is at home but speaks of going to Carrollton before Christmas. The children are well. Wythe never fails to call you to breakfast and supper and in all his troubles threatens to appeal to his Grandpa.

I believe brother David wrote to you today and will probably give you all the news. I am tired and will write no more tonight. With a God bless you, goodbye.

Your affectionate

Mary

Hon D. Walker,
Little Rock.

86. TO J. D. Walker from a Missouri cousin.

California,
Moniteau County, Mo.
May the 4, 1868

Dear Cousin David.

Father received a letter from you a few days ago which he would take great pleasure in answering if he could write. He lost his thumb on his right hand many years since with a felon. I sometimes think his afflictions have been almost as numerous as that good old patriarch Job's.

We have had rather a late cold spring. The farmers have done but little in the (work) of farming. David has 5 acres of corn that is coming up. Wheat and oats look very well. We are all well except Mother who is never well; she is able to be up the most of the time. I think she will get over the fatigue and being frightened so often during the war.

I am teaching school at this time; a very poor but an honest way of making a living. I am vain enough to think if I only had the education that I would make a pretty good schoolmarm. The children all like me and you know that's half the battle. I have 35 scholars.

I have not heard from Uncle David for a month or more. I suppose he is out of office long before this. I suppose you would like to hear something about Uncle John Walker's family. His son, Cousin J.G. Walker is in Decatur, Ill. Cousin Helen Basze is a widow. Cousin Pollie Meredith is also a widow. Cousin Rachel has never married, unless very recently. There was such talk as her marrying when I was in Jeff City last, but I rather think it's all talk. Cousin Margaret, the youngest, live near us. Two of her children are coming to school to me, Eddie and Sammie Ralston. Cousin Helen lost her husband and one son in the war. They both died at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Excuse all mistakes. I am trying to write at school. Just imagine yourself in a schoolroom at noon with 35 scholars in and around the house and say if you could write without some mistake. I think you said in your letter to Father that if I would write to you that you would write often but I am afraid you will soon get tired of my letters if they are all as uninteresting as this one, but you must bear with my nonsense this time and I will try to do better in future.

I will try to get Father to write to you if he can. It is such a task for him to write. I don't suppose he has written three letters in ten years. He has to hold his pen in his fingers. I must close as it's time I was calling my brats to order. Please write soon to you

Cousin,
Mollie

Direct
Mollie L. Walker
California, Missouri

87. John J. Walker of Ozark to his brother, Judge Walker

Ozark Arks
June 19, 1873

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 15th has been recd. I saw Mr. Wallace yesterday about the Black cotton. He has received account of sales and reports the balance due Mr. B to be one hundred and thirty six dollars and ninety six cents which he paid to me.

Nothing yet recd on Bourland's note nor Alstott's. Some three weeks ago I sold to Alfred Eichenberger two lots Towit Lots 5 and 6 in Block 29. Received in payment one Mule valued by Eichenberger at \$140.00 and his note for \$60.00 due 1 January next. I suppose the mule to be very well worth \$100.00 or \$125.00. This is low for these lots but I thought best to sell. Everything in way of business here is at a standstill. The Railroad has been completed to Clarksville but I think no further work will be done on the Road this year. There seems to be a disposition on the part of those now owning the Road to look to the advantages of the River Rought as surveyed by Barney & Prine is superior to the present survey north of this. I think the chances for Ozark to get the Road are as good now if not better than it ever has been.

Parties interested in the Road came up last week from Clarksville, to this place. The Engineer made a careful examination of Barney's survey at this place and the Bluff on the River above town. They report this Bluff is not so great an obstacle as it had been represented. I think it probable that the Rought may be abandoned north of this and turn off at Clarksville intersecting Prines & Barneys survey near Mrs. Allen's on Horsehead. There is now some difficulty with the Rail Road Co. and the Corporation of Clarksville about the issuing of bonds of the Corporation to the Co. The Corporation refuses to issue the bonds unless the Company will pay to citizens of Clarksville certain claims against the Road to the amount of \$20 or \$30 thousand dollars, which the Company refuses to do and threatens to take up the rails from Clarksville back to Cabin Creek, Johnson Co., and come up on Barney's survey, by Spadra. This threat perhaps is made only to bring Clarksville to terms.

Ozarks will do what is reasonable or right to be done to get the Road here, will issue bonds to the amt of not more than \$20,000. Over \$5000 have been subscribed by our merchants and others of the place. Donations of lands adjoining the Town and within the corporate limits to 180 acres; outside of the corporation and near the same 300 acres, as well as a number of Town lots - this only to be given when the Road is completed to Ozark, a Depot established within the Town, the necessary rolling stock upon the Road and trains running regularly into the town. I took the liberty of donating for you one block of lots to not contain more than one acre to be laid off of some part of your land in Section 35 above town.

I am in hopes that this report of a change in the Road will raise the value of lots here. I shall continue to sell even at low figures,

whenever I can get an offer, until some more definite is known. Ned is here and will start to see you in the morning. I should like very much to go with him. My health is not good. Must get away from here for a while soon.

Wilshire commences the taking of Depositions here on 23d. He has a number of witnesses summoned and the taking will probably continue some time. I wish you would say to Col. Gunter that I will represent him if my health will permit. I would like very much he would come down in person, for in case I should not be able to attend. I do not think it probable he will be represented here at all. I say this for the reason that during the taking of Depositions on behalf of Gunter here last month, no one but myself attended to it.

I send up by Ned the Mule got of Eichenberger and the \$136.96 recd from Wallace. Please write me soon and let me know how Lucy is getting on. Ned thinks of taking his family over the mountain in July. I may come up with him.

Yrs

John J. Walker

Mansfield sends his respects.

88. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue

Cane Hill, April 11th, 1874

Dear Grandpa

I received a letter from Ma yesterday in which she mentioned you having returned from St. Louis. You got home sooner than I expected, for I thought perhaps you might have some difficulty in disposing of your cattle. I know you must have enjoyed the trip, even such a short one. St. Louis is one of the cities that I would prefer visiting to almost any other. I suppose one reason is that it is so close to home, and it seems like every one who can do so, should take advantage of the nearness and go. I think "Shaw's Garden" must be one of the greatest attractions of the city, there is such a variety of flowers that they would entertain one for several days at least, but then there is so many handsome business and dwelling houses that perhaps others would differ in opinion from me and prefer examining them to the "Flower Garden."

I had the pleasure of spending a part of last Sunday with Father. He called by to see me on his way to Evansville and on his return from there he spent several hours with me. I am afraid his health is not improving as it should, for he was still complaining of his head when he was here. I thought he certainly would lose the case he went to Evansville to defend. I had heard several speaking of the case and they all thought that father's client would go to the Penitentiary.

I hope the weather has not been so unpleasant at home as it was here last week. I never saw the like of hail in my life. I have seen larger hail but never so much of it. For nearly two hours it came down so hard as to knock most all the blooms off the peach trees. There are several large gullies washed in Mrs. Welch's garden, made by the melted hail. That was on Tuesday, and it had been raining before that, and has rained a great deal since then, but I hope we will have no more unpleasant weather, for today the sun is shining out bright and warm.

Ma writes that nothing was injured at home by the frost and cold weather except a few peaches. Her letter was written on last Sunday, which was Easter, and the wise people say that after that time every thing is out of danger.

Vol has not been to see me today, but I expect he will come after a while. He always comes on Saturday and sometimes spends most of Sunday with me.

I am still very much pleased with my boarding place and don't think I could find a better one anywhere. Mrs. Welch is so kind and considerate as possible and seems to try to make me feel at home here, and Dr. Welch is also very kind. I have a very pleasant room mate; her name is Maggie Hargrave. Her stepfather is named Oliver. They live at Lee's Creek near VanBuren. She says she has seen you and that you stopped at their house going and coming from VanBuren.

I see Vol coming down the road, and I expect he is coming here. The last time he was to see me he said he would write to you soon. I would be very glad, Grandpa, to receive a letter from you at any time, but I know your time is very much occupied with business affairs, and I expect that you have not much time to write. Still when you do have time I hope you will write to me even if it is a short letter. Nothing would please me more than to have you write me a letter with a description of your visit to St. Louis. That would be the next best thing to going myself.

Affectionately

Sue H. Walker

89. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue.

Cane Hill, April 25th, 1874

Dear Grandpa

I received your very highly prized letter a few days ago and I think I was never more pleased and flattered before. I was pleased to receive a letter from you and flattered that you should be pleased too with my letter. I will try to always follow your excellent advice in general but most especially that in which you speak of making "unnecessary comments". A great deal of the sorrow and mortifications in life is occasioned by the heartless comments of disinterested persons who really intend no harm. I am afraid that I am sometimes not particular enough on this subject but had never paid much attention to it until I received your letter, but if I ever wound any one's feelings in this manner, it is certainly unintentional. I will try and be very particular in future, and perhaps some may think more kindly of me for my forbearance to criticize.

I am glad to learn that you disposed of your cattle without much difficulty, and although cattle driving was not an employment calculated to give range to thoughts as you say, still I think you must have enjoyed the trip. I know I should have enjoyed the privilege of seeing the great actor Edward Boothe, in the character of Hamlet. His being the brother of John Wilkes Boothe would have made him a person of great interest to me, notwithstanding his own fame as an actor. The play must have been very effective and to a person of my vivid imagination it would seem almost like real life acting.

Maj. Reagan came down last Friday and brought one of his daughters to see her sister, who is attending Dr. Welch's school. I saw him for a few minutes today and he spoke of seeing you and said that you looked as if you were in as good health as he ever saw you. He is loud in his praises of Dr. Welch and his school and says he prefers it to any school in the state. We have good water and you scarcely ever hear of any sickness. I believe I am in better health here than at home.

Vol has been to see me today and says he wrote a letter to you this morning. He has had several chills lately and if he doesn't take some medicine to cure them, I fear he will contract a long siege of them. The last three days have been bright and warm and I am in hopes that it will continue so, for it would be a great disappointment to be deprived of fruit another year.

Ma writes that our garden is looking very well and that they have had asparagus and have lettuce large enough to use. Their garden must be rather forward or the ones down here very backward.

I received a letter from Aunt Serena last week in which she mentioned the great Methodist revival. She says that over 150 persons have professed religion. It must be the greatest revival ever gotten up in this country. She (aunt Serena) mentioned a great many persons with whom I am acquainted.

You write and say that I "must not write again, that I fear you have not time to write". Then I will say that I hope you will take time and write to me often, for I am very proud to receive a letter from you. Love to all at home.

Affectionately

Sue H. Walker

90. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue.

Fayetteville, April 26th, 1875

Dear Grandpa

I write to you today in Ma's stead, as she promised to write yesterday but has not had time. I'm afraid I will fill her place very poorly.

I came home Saturday and found Father very sick, so much so that I have not yet returned to school. He is some better now, though still unable to sit up, but entirely out of danger, still very weak and complains of his head hurting him at times.

Ma is very tired from constant watching and anxiety about Father, for although there has been no scarcity of nurses for him, she has been too anxious to be able to sleep much. His friends have all shown great kindness and interest and seemed eager to sit up and nurse him, though he is now almost well enough to dispense with some one to sit up at night. Drs. Pollard and Gray have attended him.

Cousin Rose Carnahan (that was) came to see us the other day. She expects to spend a week or two with her Mother before returning. She seems to like her new home very much and is looking better than I ever saw her. She says Springfield would suit her much better if there were more southern people there and they didn't have such a poor opinion of Arkansas.

I was at Mr. Buckner's several days ago. They were all well at that time, but we heard this evening that George was quite sick with cold. Aunt Nannie is very well; her little baby looks very much like Jennie did when she was a baby.

I wish you could be with us to enjoy the early spring vegetables. We have had asparagus and have lettuce large enough to eat. Our garden is looking very flourishing, better than any I have seen elsewhere. Everything is growing finely. But most of the fruit is killed by frost and almost everywhere else the fruit is injured excepting the high mountain orchards. The grapes are said to be uninjured.

I was sorry to see the announcement of the death of Mrs. Judge Davis in last week's paper. Her illness was very brief; pneumonia I believe was what she died with. There is a great amount of sickness throughout the country, mostly cases of pneumonia.

It has been raining almost constantly today and the outlook from the windows is very dreary. Owing to the inclemency of the weather we have been obliged to keep the children in the house all day and you can scarcely imagine the difficulty of keeping David from disturbing Father with the noise he makes.

Ma says to tell you that she will write to you in a few days. She is feeling very unwell this evening and I am afraid she is threatened with a long attack of sickness. She is lying down just now, and I must now close my letter, to take care of little George, so that he will not disturb her.

All join me in much love to Grandpa.

Your affectionate Grand-Daughter
Sue H. Walker

91. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue.

Boonsboro, May 22nd, 1875

Dear Grandpa

I write to you today in answer to your request to write as soon as I heard from home, for last night I received my first letter from home since I came back to school. In it Ma wrote that Father was still improving and all the rest of the family were well.

I have been very busy since my return, trying to make up for the time I lost during my stay at home, and making preparations for an examination and exhibition. It is only four weeks until school is out.

The weather has been very bad for the last two weeks, raining almost constantly. There is to be a Sabbath-school celebration at Prairie Grove today but I don't think there will be many in attendance as the rain will be likely to prevent. I thought of going but my disappointment is not great for I scarcely ever enjoy a picnic much, and the prospect of riding in the rain out there and the consequence a bad cold, is not at all an inviting prospect.

The time for the annual "Decoration" of the Confederate graves is almost here. The 27th I believe is the time appointed. I do not think of attending, for I would have to miss three days from school at the very least, one to go in, one to stay and one to return in, and that is more time than I can afford to lose from my studies just now when school is so near out. I believe Col. Gunter, M.C. is to be Grand Marshal of the day. The position suits admirably, I think. Col. Cravens of Clarksville is to be one of the speakers and Rev. E.M. Thorpe is another, and I have forgotten who the others are.

There is great commotion among the Indians now. They have drawn their money that was due them from the United States debt, and seem impatient to spend it as soon as possible. They are constantly passing through here going to mill. They are very destitute all through the winter and looked forward with great anticipation to the drawing of their money, but they were disappointed in the amount, expecting to get \$50.00 a piece, but the allowance was only \$10.60 for each.

Ma wrote me that she had 2000 sweet potato slips put out and 1100 cabbage plants, very nice looking tomatoes and would have plenty of English peas by next week; from her description of the garden every thing is much farther advanced than here. I wish you could be at home to enjoy the early vegetables and home cooking, for although every thing seems to be in elegant style at those large hotels, I know they cannot have time to bestow as much care upon cooking as a cook for a common sized family would do. I suppose you are having plenty of fish from the river now. They were being brought to town at home before I left. There is no place close about here for good fishing and they are scarcely ever brought here for sale.

Ma writes that Father has been fishing several times lately. It seems to do him more good than any thing else. He enjoys catching them more than any one I ever saw.

I must close my short letter, as I now have an opportunity of sending it to the post office and indeed I can think of nothing more to write that would in any way interest you. I will continue to write to you whenever I can, and if possible every time I get a letter from home. It is always a pleasure to me to write to you if I can make my letters at all interesting to you, but there is so much monotony in a school girl's life, and so little variation, that in writing to our elders we can scarcely dare to hope that we can interest them.

I am quite well and hope that you are also. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, as ever,

Your Affectionate Grand-daughter,

Sue H. Walker

Fayetteville April 18th 1876

Dear Grandpa

You have been gone two weeks and none of us have written to you yet. Ma has spoken of it several times but has been very busy and so have I. We have been house cleaning and gardening and getting through with the spring work generally. Court began here Monday and it is thought will last several weeks as there are a good many important cases to be disposed of.

Mr. Crump for whom little George is named is here spending several weeks with us. We feel under many obligations to him for his kindness to Father while he was sick at Harrison. He is a candidate for prosecuting attorney. Col. Stirman is his opponent.

The Hoyt case excites a good deal of interest, even the ladies are talking of going to hear the speeches. It will be tried next week.

We have had delightful weather for the last week or so; some days as warm and pleasant as May. It looks odd to see such a scarcity of blossoms on the fruit trees. I suppose we will have no peaches at all. Our garden is looking very promising and if the cut-worms will let it alone, I think we will have plenty of vegetables. I suppose vegetation is much farther advanced at Little Rock than here.

The Decoration of the Confederate graves is now the topic of great interest. I have not heard who have been selected as the orators of the day. I fear it will be difficult to get flowers enough for the purpose as there are none in bloom yet.

Mary and David and I went to Aunt Mary Washington's last Sunday. Cousin Beck had been quite sick but was able to sit up. Aunt Mary's health is tolerably good. They had not heard from Charlie for some time but when last heard from he was teaching school.

I have been anxious to hear how Judge Clendennin's health was. I can fully appreciate the feelings of his family since Father's health has been so poor. I have been intending to answer his daughter's letter and will do so soon.

Uncle White has been very sick since you left. He is able to be out again now, I believe.

We are all tolerably well with the exception of Father, whose health is not as good as when you were here. He thinks he will try to go to Hot Springs when Court is over. I think the rest he will get while there will be as beneficial as anything else.

I have nothing of interest to write. Ma says tell you that she had intended writing to you today, but since I have written she will wait a few days. I was at Aunt Nannie's last week; they are all well.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Your Affectionate Grand-daughter

Sue H. Walker

93. Mary (Mrs.J.D.) Walker to her father, Judge Walker.

Fayetteville June 7th 1877

Dear Papa

Your letter to David enclosing one to me came yesterday. David and I went into town early in the morning, he to take the stage for Bentonville, and I to spend the day with Mrs. Vaulx and Mrs. Borden. On calling at the Post Office David found your letter which he brought to me. I need not tell you that I was greatly gratified with both, to know that David's labors on his cases had been successful gave me pleasure, and relieved his anxiety on their account, and your letter to me of course filled me with gratitude.

I am very much pleased with the articles you have named, and if you give me preference, I think (tho (have never seen any) the tan set of parlor furniture would suit me best, and would be in good taste with my new carpet. The center table and that rack from their prices must be very pretty. Sue wishes me to thank you for the chamber suit and like you prefers the walnut. I have every confidence in your taste and good judgement, and if you think the other style of parlor furniture prettier or more suitable than the tan, please decide for me.

Uncle John came last night. This morning he went on to Maysville where he has business. He looks quite well, and I hope on his return he will stay some time with us.

Last night we had the severest storm I ever witnessed. The wind was terrible and we were much frightened as the lightning and thunder were terrific. I was distressed on going out this morning to find the large peach tree at the door broken off entirely at the roots. Two of the largest locust trees blown down and every other locust tree in the yard so loosened at the roots as to be half bent. The limbs of the other trees were scattered over the yard and presented a sad scene of destruction. Brother David and Jim are out now trying to prop and straighten some of the trees. The storm did not seem to be so violent any where else as on this hill.

On Sunday night we had another very hard storm. A barn on the edge of town was struck by lightning and five horses were killed. It has rained all week and is very cloudy now.

Probably before you receive this, Mr. Buckner will be in Little Rock on his way to Kentucky where he has been called by the illness of his Father. He intended leaving home yesterday but I don't know that he left before this morning.

All relations here well. I am sorry to hear that you are not feeling so (well). Hope rest will restore you.

Affectionately,

Mary

94. To Judge Walker from his son, C.W.Walker

Fayetteville Ark
June 8th 1877

Dear Pa

I received your letter containing an agreed state of facts, upon which the Rail Road case is to be settled in the Supreme Court. It seems to me that the case does not present directly the stated obligation relative to this class of fraudulent indebtedness, and that any thing contained in an opinion settling this would be mere dicta. It were well for the people of the state if the question of the state's liability to pay any part of the R R Aid Bonds, Levee and Holford Bonds, could find a practical and equitable solution, and the matter for all time be put at rest.

In compliance with your wish I went upon the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 29, 17, 33 and took an obligation to pay rent from Joshua Kidwell, the man upon the place. Kidwell has only been upon the place this year, prior to that time one Griffin resided upon the land and for two years paid rent to Rutherford. The rents amounted to but little (there being but about three acres in cultivation) but R had no right to collect rents after sale. There is about six acres of land in cultivation, a log dwelling house and smoke house, but my information is that the north line of the 80 passes between the smoke house and dwelling, leaving dwelling house and three acres on Government land. Alex Yell says that the line divides the falls at the Fisher Ford, a few acres of the tract being on south side of the river. If such is the case it commands the finest mill seat in all this western country. I was over the tract, the greater portion of it I would call second bottom land; it is thickly covered with hazel and is rich land.

Next week the board of trustees meet and I much fear that some action will be had by them by which Mr. Borden will be relieved of his place in the faculty, not that I have heard of any complaint touching his fitness for the chair he holds as regards scholarship, or his capacity to impart knowledge; not that the branches taught by him are not indispensable, but there seems to be some unfounded prejudice, preacher perhaps.

"I do not like you, Doctor Fell,
The reason why I cannot tell,
But this I'm sure I know full well,
I do not like you, Doctor Fell."

Some of the professors will be displeased and the salaries of others curtailed in order to carry on the school under the small appropriation made. Hope that Gen. Royston will be here. A strong effort must be made for Prof. Borden or I fear that he will go out.

Hope you are well and will be at home soon. All well. Kind regards to Maj. Adams and family.

Your son

C W Walker

PS Uncle John is up and in good health.

C W W

95. Mary (Mrs.J.D.) Walker to her father, Judge Walker.

Fayetteville Oct. 28th 1877

Dear Papa

I am sitting up today and feeling much better than I have done since you left home. I have been so unwell for several weeks past that I thought it best to abandon all hope of getting moved into our new home for some time and to make myself comfortable by taking the room we have and for a parlor as my best room, and move up from the old house into my former room for kitchen and dining room. As this is now accomplished, I feel like a little rest will restore me to my usual health.

I hope you safely reached Little Rock and are over the fatigue of your journey and are prepared for the enjoyment of the Fair which from all accounts promises to be very pleasant. I had forgotten that Court opened tomorrow and that duty before pleasure would come to you. As you were not well when you left home, I am sorry that you are so soon to be engaged in court duties.

The Adams trial occupied a part of the past week and ended on Wednesday night with his acquittal, contrary to the expectations of many but to the satisfaction I suppose of all charitable people. The remainder of the week court adjourned on account of the fair, which considering the unpleasant weather was well attended and gave general satisfaction. Mr. Buckner was made happy by Gipsy's taking second premium for pacing.

But little work has been done on the new house this week. I gave the money to Mr. Mayes and Blackmer you left for them and took receipts.

George says tell Granpa, Ma found your bottle of Hostetter's Bitters on your mantelpiece and gave it to him and Dvid every day but he don't like it much.

We are all suffering from colds produced by the damp warm weather. George almost had croup last night. I have been trying to amuse him in the house today, but as the sun has been bright and pleasant outdoors so the other children could be out, it has been a difficult task and I am not sorry the day is nearly gone and they will all soon be in peaceful sleep. Oh happy childhood, how few of life's cares are then felt.

When you have leisure I shall be happy to hear from you. I will write as often as I am able. I find I have made a mistake in turning over my paper and would rewrite my letter but do not feel able.

Your affectionate child

Mary

96. To Judge Walker from his son Ned.

Ozark Arks.
Nov. 29th, 1877

Dear Pa

I received a letter from Maj. John Crawford, auditor of state, in reply to a letter concerning the eighty acres of land in Johnson County donated by you to the state institution. In his letter he says you think the Trustees of the College will ask more for the land than I can afford to pay. I do not wish to purchase the land myself. I merely wrote at the request of my old friend Weathers in the town, who is getting scarce of timber and thought he would buy that eighty if it could be had on reasonable terms. We are having some very cold weather for the time of year. Have had a very unfavorable fall or at least the latter part of it, for gathering crops or sowing wheat. I have a very good crop on my farm and am getting along gathering as well as I could expect, considering the unfavorable weather.

Sue received a letter dated the 25th from her brother David. All were well at that time. He wrote that Mollie, John's daughter, was married to a young man by the name of Weeks, who lived out in that neighborhood. I do not know him, but fear she may some day regret the step she has taken. I think that rather a hard neighborhood anyhow.

Circuit Court has been in session here since the 5th inst. and bids fair to continue for several days yet. We are all well. I have not seen Uncle John for several days but think he is as well as usual.

Your son
E. H. Walker

Hon. David Walker
Little Rock, Arks.

97. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue.

Fayetteville, Jan. 30th, 1878

Dear Grandpa --

After many efforts I have at last succeeded in getting George to sleep, and everything is delightfully quiet; so I may write without fear of being interrupted.

We have not heard from you since you left Ozark. Uncle Ned wrote that you were very much fatigued when you reached there; but the rest of your traveling being on the cars, I hope you experienced no serious inconvenience from the trip.

This has been an unusually disagreeable week, raining incessantly, cold and dreary. I have been reading Dickens' Christmas Stories every night, which accorded very well with the gloomy weather -- each one duly furnished with the inevitable ghost, but as interesting withal that I was sorry when I had finished the book.

There has been several cases of pneumonia in town, all of which have been fatal. Miss Goldsworthy, a step-daughter of Mr. Sewell, died last Sunday of congestion of the heart and lungs. I attended her funeral which took place on Monday. There was a very large attendance. The young lady was a pupil of the college here and the remains was followed to the cemetery by a long procession of students. The grief of the poor mother was terrible to witness. Almost an entire stranger here, she felt her bereavement more deeply perhaps than if she had been among friends of longer acquaintance, though everyone sympathized deeply with them in their great affliction.

But there has been a death nearer home that has made us all feel sad today -- poor old Mr. Bishop died yesterday and was buried this evening. He had been almost helpless for several months and could not have lived long, though the immediate cause of his death was pneumonia. Father went to the funeral. He said there were scarcely enough present to bury the poor old man, though I suppose the weather might be some excuse for persons not attending as they should to show a last tribute of respect to a very worthy though poor old man.

Aunt Nannie was up yesterday. They are all well. She says she thinks George is improving rapidly. Mr. Buckner consulted Dr. Gray about him and he thinks it will not be necessary for him to go to Hot Springs.

Father has been very unwell for several days; has suffered greatly at night with his head. He hoped to have been at Little Rock before this time but has not been able to get off. Damp weather always has a very depressing effect upon him and we have had a great deal of that lately.

There is no news of any interest to write. The public mind (of Fayetteville) is still agitated over the subject of a railroad, though to what purpose I fear we will not find out.

We are very well with the exception of Father. All of the children join me in love to you, George particularly. We hope to hear from you soon.

Your affectionate Grand-daughter
Sue H. Walker

98. To Judge Walker from his grandson David and daughter Mary.

Fayetteville Feb. 17th 1878

Dear Grandpa

Ma is going to write for me. I am sorry to hear you are sick. Father wrote to Ma about it. Wythe wrote to you this evening but Ma said it was not a good letter and he must write it over. Wythe and Jack went down to Mr. Buckner's this evening to get Traveler for Ma, to ride out to see Aunt Lucy tomorrow. George and I had to bring in the wood for morning because Sissy and the boys were gone. I brought the wood and George picked up two basketsfull of chips. I went to church today with Ma, and came by the postoffice with Wythe and got a letter from Father. Wythe's trap caught two rabbits. Vol is writing a letter to you right now. A new scholar has come to school named Ed Plummer. He came with the boys to see Wythe and Jack. The baby is mighty good and pretty. The baby is going to be baptized soon. George is asleep.

Your boy David

I intended writing to you tonight, Dear Papa, but found both Vol and Sue were writing to you, and I will wait till another time. David has been begging all evening to write a letter to his Grandpa, and I have made him happy and now hope he will quietly go to bed and let me write to his Father while the baby sleeps. David writes me that you are still quite unwell but thinks when the weather gets better you will improve. You know how anxious I am, dear Papa, that this should be so. Tho' every comfort surrounds you, still I wish you were at home where I could nurse and tend you.

I hope you have had as bright and pleasant a day as has smiled on us today. Tis the first clear Sunday we have had this year, and I enjoyed it, as it afforded me the first opportunity I have had for attending church for many months.

We are well here, and at Mr. Buckner's, as well as at White's. Hoping to soon hear that you are much better, Dear Father, I bid you good night.

Your affectionate Mary

99. To Judge Walker from his granddaughter Sue.

Home Feb. 18th 1878

Dear Grandpa

Ma and Vol wrote to you last night; but I thought I would put off writing until today so you would not receive so many letters at one time, and so enjoy getting them more.

We are all sorry to hear that you are sick, but I hope you will soon be well again. The weather is so pleasant that its influence must be felt by every one but I wish you were at home; it seems that you would get well sooner if you had good home nursing, though I know Mrs. Adams gives you the best attention in her power.

Ma and Aunt Nannie went out to see Aunt Lucy this morning. They have not returned yet. We have not heard from there for several days. Rose is still at home with her mother. Mr. Stockard has gone back to Springfield.

Mr. Denton, the celebrated lecturer, is here. I went to hear his lecture upon "the nature and curiosities of habit". He presents his thoughts in a very forcible and agreeable manner and seems to have a perfect fund of humor at command. He is a Methodist minister as well as a lecturer but looks as little like one as any one I ever saw.

I saw an article in the Sentinel last week that made me feel very proud. It was the complimentary notice of you by the editor of that paper showing the appreciation of the people for all that you have done for them. Of course nothing can add to the pride which your own family have in you, but it is pleasant to hear others acknowledge their appreciation of your efforts in their behalf.

Miss Sue Buckner intends returning to Kentucky next month. Aunt Nannie will be almost broken up without her. She is of so much assistance in helping take care of the children but no one can blame her for being anxious to return home. Her mother and father both being in bad health.

This bright weather has been very favorable for the yard-cleaning that we have been having done. You would almost think it was another place since the lumber has all been cleared out of the yard. We have not moved into the house yet but the painting is nearly done and I think we will move soon.

Wythe and Johnnie are getting on very well at school, tho' Wythe is the quickest to learn any thing, Johnnie by his energy and close application manages to get ahead of him sometimes, that is has more perfect lessons.

But all the future greatness of the family, if there is any in store for us, is centered in George Crump. It may appear that in our partial eyes he seems brighter than he really is, but even strangers notice him in preference to all the other children. David is whole-souled and generous and not lacking in sense by any means but he appears to poor advantage when George is near. And as for little sister, whatever she may be in the future, just now she engrosses the attention of the entire family.

I want to write to Father this evening and in order to do so must close this letter now. I hope to hear soon that you are better.

Your affectionate Grand-daughter
Sue Walker

100. To Judge Walker from his 12-year-old grandson Wythe

Fayetteville March 3rd 1878

Dear Grandpa

Father got home thurs day night and went away to day again. I hope you are well again and will come home soon. My pony is fat. I am going to bring her home as soon as I can. I am going to school now and so is Jack. Mr. Vaulx has 40 scholars. I have not been down to the Farm since you left. Mr. Buckner has a very pretty pony and two casmer goats. They are very pretty too. Ma wrote to you to day and I thought I had better write too. Tell Johnnie Squire to write to me. I have written to him 3 times and he has not written to me at all.

All are well. Your affectionate grandson

Wythe Walker

101. Mary (Mrs.J.D.) Walker to her father, Judge Walker

Home March 11th 1878

My Dear Father

Your letter to Sister Nannie and myself I received today. Its contents fill one with sorrow. I pray you may be mistaken in thinking your illness so serious. White wrote me so cheerfully in regard to your improvement that I was daily expecting Mr. Buckner to receive a letter requesting him to bring a conveyance for you. Altho' my inclinations to go to see you are so strong, your counsel to remain at home I will follow, feeling assured that you will not deny me the privilege of being with you should you grow worse. Since David reached home from Ozark, it has been fortunate for me that I have had too much work to do to have time for giving up to sadness. I was so much afraid I could not get moved into the new part of our house and be comfortably and quietly there before you come, so as to prevent any noise and confusion that might annoy you. I have worked hard and am in readiness to devote all my time to nursing you when you come home. I hear frequently from David. He is in good health. He is very anxious to hear often from you. I would be glad if White and David would write to him. The children send their love to Grandpa. Sue requests me to say she has been suffering for two weeks with sore eyes or she would have written. All the children have been greatly afflicted in the same way, even the little baby. Vol is the last one to take it, and now for several days has been unable to use his eyes at all. With this exception we are tolerably well. Tell White I saw Serena today. She and the children are well. I hope some one will write often, for I am restless and anxious. May God bless and restore you to health soon, my dear Father, I most earnestly pray.

Your affectionate Mary

Fayetteville April 2nd, 1878

Dear Papa

I have been much gratified to hear continued intelligence of your improvement. A letter from Sue today encourages me to hope that it will indeed be only a few weeks until you can come home. The climate being so much warmer at Ozark than with us, you would not gain much strength if you remain there late in the season, and yet I know you will be guided by the advice of your Physicians as to the time of your removal. I was ready to go down to Ozark when Nannie returned and told me you thought it best for me not to come. David thinks I should yet go, and if you do not come home as soon as you expect, I hope to have your permission to visit you if for only a few days. You could not have a more willing nurse than Sue, and as far as her experience goes, she will do anything she can for your comfort.

David returned from Huntsville Friday night and went up to Bentonville on Monday. He had been quite unwell since leaving home but left improved after a few days rest at home.

We have had unusually pleasant weather until on Saturday. Rain and frost cooled the atmosphere considerably and caused some fear for the safety of the fruit. Nothing was injured with us, tho' it is probable that on the low lands the frost did more damage. I was not as early as usual in getting my garden planted, but think I will not be later than others. I had a dish of Asparagus last week and wished I could have sent you a dish of soup. You will be at home to enjoy the strawberries of which there is promise of an abundant yield.

Wythe and Johnnie are doing well at school. Out of forty-five pupils Jack is second best and carries the silver medal. Altho' not half as quick to learn, he has twice the industry and perseverance that Wythe has.

We are anticipating a visit from our Bishop who will spend perhaps several weeks with us. I say we, that is the members of the church. He will be the guest of our Pastor, Mr. Vault. I regret that I will not be able to enjoy his stay this Spring as I did last; my home cares and duties are such that I must stay at home.

We are in good health as are all other relatives. I hope to hear frequently from you and trust it will not be long until you are with us.

Your Affectionate Mary

103. Senator J. D. Walker to his wife Mary.

United States Senate Chamber,

Washington, Oct. 22nd, 1881

My dear Wife

. I returned on yesterday evening from my trip to Yorktown and was delighted to find so many letters from you and Sue. And especially to learn that you had succeeded in getting a girl to cook, for I know it must have been hard upon you to bear up so long under uncertainty. I hope she will remain, and that you will now regain your health and good spirits. I fear from Sue's letter that you have been seriously sick, and pray that you will now take good rest and be yourself again.

My trip all in all, was pleasant. Went over on Monday night and remained at Yorktown until Wednesday evening and then Senator Pugh and I both tired of the crowd, took a steamer and visited Old Point Comfort and Fortress Monroe, where we passed the time delightfully, seeing the ships coming in every moment from the broad Atlantic, listening to the "breakers roar", looking at the porpoises, eating fresh fish, examining the Fort and entertaining each other! We knew nobody and had all the quiet we desired. I will tell you of our trip when I get back, which I think will be by the last of next week. You will be glad to know that my trip improved me greatly and I only regretted that you and Sue were not with me.

We expect an adjournment at least by Thursday next. Love and kisses to you and all the children. I love you, my own dear Pet. God bless my Darling.

Your affectionate Husband

J. D. Walker

104. Senator J. D. Walker to his son David, then 10 years old.

United States Senate

Washington, D.C., Decr. 19th, 1882

My dear little boy Dave

I was very sorry to hear that you were sick with the chills. Jack says that you were sitting up in bed singing, and that is some consolation. I hope to hear that you are entirely well again. It makes me feel very badly to hear that you are sick and I so far from my dear boy. You must be very careful and took good care of yourself. You do not know how much I love you. Has Vol got back? I have not yet heard. I hope that he has by this time.

Mama wrote me that you had been a good boy, did that make you sick? You know it is not expected that a boy will be good all at once. How are George and Nanna and the all at home. You must write me about everything. How many rabbits and birds have you caught and all the occurrences about the place.

Hug and kiss Mother for me and then all the children. I am feeling quite well. Will write to Ma tomorrow.

God bless my dear boy.

Your affectionate Father

J. D. Walker

105. To Senator Walker in Washington from his son Wythe in Fayetteville.

Fayetteville, Ark.
Feb. 2nd, 1885

Dear Father:

I received your telegram today saying that you had sent me a draft for Fifty Dollars. I am very much obliged to you for it and will start to Washington as soon as it arrives. Uncle John and Mack were in town today. I invited them out to dinner but they were in a hurry to get back home. They are both well. Vol is in Little Rock on legal business and will not be home for several days.

All are well. Hoping to be with you soon, I am,

Your affectionate son,

J. Wythe Walker

106. Mrs. J. D. Walker to her son Wythe while he was in Washington serving as secretary to his father, Senator Walker.

Home, Feb. 16th, 1885

My Dear Son

While George and Norma are in the kitchen watching Josie make a pie for dinner, I will take advantage of the quiet their absence insures, to answer your very good and interesting letter of the 13th which I have just received. You must not think I wish to flatter you when I say you write a most excellent letter, both in regard to composition and penmanship. Especially do I think so, when I remember what little epistolary correspondence you have had. There is nothing more improving to the young than letter writing, and I am delighted to see you write in such an easy and unrestrained style. From the very poor specimens you have seen of your Mother's letters you will think she is not a very able critic, but I once could write quite a readable letter. (Ask Father about it.)

From your letters I imagine you are having a very pleasant visit. We are interested in all you see and envious about the new friends and acquaintances you make. Dave wants to know who Miss Carrie Brown is and George says she was mighty good to give you the capstone of the monument for him. He cannot be convinced that you have not the whole of it packed away in your valise ready to bring to him. I cannot tell you how glad I am that you have an opportunity to see so much that is new and interesting to you, and that you might never under circumstances have had. I know you will not neglect any duty to your Father, to enjoy yourself, but when not engaged you will have an opportunity to see everything.

Sue and I were a little amused that Mrs. Johnson and daughter should have called, but I suppose we are entirely ignorant of the etiquette of Washington society. You will find your Father a most excellent guide as to who it will be best for you to associate with. I never knew anyone with more refined instincts, and his pride would never allow him to entertain or recognize any one unworthy, so you may consult him with all confidence in such matters. You have doubtless found that he has none but the best associates.

Do you see much of Col. Boudinot? You have not mentioned meeting with Mr. Garland or family, or Col. Peel. I suppose you will see Miss Kate Peel, and if you can, be sure to call on Miss Willie Dean.

We have been shut up in the house ever since you left. Sue has been sick all the time, and had she been well, the weather has been too bad to go out. It snowed again last night. We now have on the ground the deepest snow of the winter, but I have managed to keep comfortable by having good fires.

Sue sat up today for the first time. The rising under her lip has been opened and the swelling is nearly gone. I think she will now get well. If she had to be sick, it fell in a fortunate time, for the

weather has been too bad for her to go to the college. She is very impatient to resume her lessons in painting. She brought home, after you left, a beautiful snow scene on frosted glass, and is now painting a large landscape. Don't forget to get her three pretty brackets to fasten on the wall to set her framed pictures on. Let them be of dark wood so as to show pretty on the white wall. And my dear son, don't forget your photograph for me, if you can get it.

George has changed his mind about the wagon and team, he told you to bring, and now says he wants a little wheelbarrow and a gun. You may bring Will the pony ----- but I want your Father to bring him a good knife. He has been a very good boy and deserves it. I can write no more now. Tell Father I will write to him next. Love and kisses to you both, and may God bless my darling.

Your affectionate Mother

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A P P E N D I X
to the
WALKER FAMILY LETTERS

Fayetteville, Arkansas

1856

ADDENDUM
to the
W A L K E R F A M I L Y L E T T E R S

-0-

Since the publication of the first edition of the Walker Family Letters, additional correspondence of this illustrious Washington County family has come to light.

Because these letters contribute much to the picture of this closely-knit pioneer family, and because they shed light on the post-war economy of northwest Arkansas, we are including them in this second printing, which is made necessary by the fact that the first edition was exhausted within one month after publication.

This second edition includes 32 letters that were not in the first edition. It also contains a genealogy of the Walker family, which will make clear the relationship of the various individuals mentioned in the letters.

W. J. Lemke,
Editor of Publications,
Washington County Historical
Society, Fayetteville, Arkansas

NOTES on the WALKER FAMILY LETTERS

by W. J. Lemke

1

This was probably the first letter-from-home received by David Walker after his arrival in Arkansas. In his autobiography he says that he arrived in Fayetteville "about" the 30th of October, 1830. This letter from his father states that the family received a letter from David dated "Fayetteville A(rkansas) T(erritory). 27th Octo." The young emigrant had left his home in Kentucky on September 30, 1830. He arrived in Little Rock October 10. He appeared before Judges Johnson and Cross on October 15 and on that date received his license to practice law in Arkansas. He then "pursued my journey up the Arkansas River and out to Fayetteville."

2

The father warns his son against associating with another Kentuckian who had emigrated to Fayetteville (identity unknown). The son (David) evidently resented the advice, as can be seen in Letter No.3.

3

John and Martin, referred to in this letter as attending Mr. Pirtle's school, were brothers of David Walker. Both came to Arkansas. Martin was already on his way when this letter of his father's was being written. The father's estimate of Martin's ability is interesting, in view of the fact that Martin Kidder Walker became an outstanding pioneer teacher in Washington and Benton counties.

4

This unusual letter -- it required four months to write -- while waiting for some traveler who would carry it to Arkansas -- was written by a mother to her daughter who early that year (January 31, 1833) had married David Walker and moved from Kentucky to the wilderness of northwest Arkansas. The mother was Rebecca Washington, who as Rebecca Smith had married Whiting Washington. Mrs. David Walker (Jane Lewis Washington) was the granddaughter of Warner Washington, a first cousin of General George Washington. The line of descent is as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Augustine Washington | -- his brother -- | John Washington |
| ↓ | | ↓ |
| George Washington | | Warner Washington |
| | | ↓ |
| | | Whiting Washington m. Rebecca Smith |
| | | ↓ |
| | | Jane Lewis Washington m. David Walker |

5

David Walker was riding the circuit of courts when his wife wrote him this letter, probably to Batesville.

6

The Mary and Martin referred to in this letter are David Walker's sister and brother.

These letters refer to the proposed emigration of David Walker's parents, and of Mrs. Walker's relatives, from Kentucky to Fayetteville. The correspondence on this subject covered a year. Jacob Wythe Walker and wife (David Walker's parents) arrived in Fayetteville in December, 1835, coming overland. Rebecca Washington (Mrs. David Walker's mother) made the move, probably by steamboat, in February 1836.

12

Regarding this letter, Ted R. Worley, executive secretary of the Arkansas History Commission, writes:

"The letter of Sunday evening, 8th, was probably written November 8, 1840, and refers to the inauguration of Gov. Archibald Yell. The Gazette of November 11, 1840, describes that inauguration, and it corresponds to the description in Judge Walker's letter. The procession, which assembled between 12 and 1 o'clock on November 5, was in this order: Military Escort with music; The several Committees; Governor and ex-Governor; Judges of the Supreme and Circuit Courts; and other public officers; Clergy; Invited Guests; Masons; Odd Fellows; Citizens generally. The military included Pike's Artillery and the military band of the 3d Regiment US Infantry, a detachment of troops destined for Florida. The usual 26-gun salute was fired in honor of the states. This could not have been the inauguration of Conway in 1836, as the Conway inauguration had no clergy, Masons, Odd Fellows, etc."

13

The election to which this letter refers was that of 1835 for Representatives in the Territorial legislature. The five elected from Washington County were: David Walker, Abraham Whinnery, Francis Dunn, Thomas H. Tennant and Onesimus Evans. The Arkansas Gazette of August 18, 1835, stated that some of the poll books of Washington County would probably be rejected, in which case Walker, Tennant, Evans, Alexander and Blakemore would go to the House.

14

This is a graphic account of the cholera epidemic that swept Kentucky in the summer of 1835, written by Rebecca Washington from her country home (Green Ridge) near Russellville. Although they gave refuge to 14 members of two Loving families, the Washingtons escaped the plague. The cholera probably speeded up the Walker and Washington removals to Arkansas, for they left their Kentucky homes within four months after the cessation of the epidemic.

15

Commenting on this letter, Ted R. Worley says:

"The letter dated Senate Chambers, 4th November, was written in 1840 and again refers to the inauguration of Archibald Yell, scheduled for the next day. He mentions the defeat of Mrs. Walker's brother (Charles W. Washington). The House Journal of 1840 tells of the spirited contest he describes. On Monday, November 2, 1840, in the organization of the House, all went smoothly until time came to elect an Assistant Clerk. Mr. Hiram Smith nominated John S. Huston, Isaac Taylor nominated Jefferson Smith, C.P. Bertrand nominated E.H. Cook, Wm. D. Reagan nominated Charles W. Washington, and J.J. Shell nominated Chittenden George.

THE WALKER FAMILY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

compiled by
Allan S. Humphreys, chairman
Genealogy Committee
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

JACOB WALKER, (whose father was believed to be George Walker), married Courtnay Tucker. He died 5 February 1778, in Virginia, where he had been a Captain in the 1st Continental Artillery, in 1777. Among the children of Jacob and Courtnay (Tucker) Walker, was a son, George, who married Mary Meade, (daughter of David and Susan (Everard) Meade). George Walker was a Colonel in the Virginia Militia in 1781. His family included sons named: David, Jacob Wythe, John, Andrew, and George, and in addition, daughters named: Susannah, Margaret, Ann, Lucy, Fanny, and Helen.

(4) DAVID⁴ WALKER, (George³, Jacob², George¹), was born 13 April, 1763, in Culpeper Co., Va. He died 1 March 1820, in Washington, D.C., and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery. He married 14 Feb. 1798 to Mary Barbour (daughter of James Barbour). She was born 1780, in Virginia, and died 6 May 1815 in Kentucky.

He attended the College of William and Mary; was a member of the Kentucky state legislature, 1793 to 1796, and was a Representative in Congress, 1817 to 1820. He also served as a Major in the War of 1812.

Children of David and Mary, surname WALKER:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| i. Frances, | b. 7 Dec. 1796; m. Humphrey Gwynn. |
| ii. Mary (Polly), | b. 16 Dec. 1797; m. Richard K. Meade. |
| 6. iii. James Volney, | b. 6 Aug. 1799. |
| iv. Phillip Jefferson, | b. 13 Aug. 1801. |
| v. Jacob Wythe, | b. 9 Sep. 1803; m. Mauzee Hogan. They |
| lived in Missouri. | |
| vi. Helen, | b. 21 Sep. 1806; m. David Browder, of |
| Logan County, Ky. | |
| vii. George Keith, | b. 16 Jan. 1809; m. Mary Carnahan. They |
| lived in Florida. | |

(5) JACOB WYTHE⁴ WALKER, (George³, Jacob², George¹), was born 7 Sept. 1778 in Culpeper Co., Va. He died Dec. 1838, and is buried in the Walker Cemetery, Fayetteville, Ark. He married Ann (Nancy) Hawkins, (daughter of James and Lucy (Wyatt) Hawkins, of Virginia. She was born 3 Oct. 1780 and died 1851.

Their home was in Kentucky but they disposed of their property and came to Fayetteville, Ark., in 1836. He was President of the Fayetteville Branch of the State Bank of Arkansas until his death.

Children of Jacob Wythe and Ann, surname WALKER:

- 7. i. David, b. 19 Feb. 1806.
- ii. Mary, b. 1 Dec. 1807; m. Benjamin Moore, of Crawford Co., Ark.
- iii. Lucy, b. 17 Oct. 1809; d. 24 Aug. 1879; m. 29 June 1846, as his second wife, to Adam Carnahan, b. 25 Sept. 1801; d. 11 Feb. 1871. He was a Presbyterian minister, of Washington Co., Ark.

Their children, surname CARNAHAN:

- a. David Walker, b. 19 Dec. 1847; d. 13 March 1880
- b. Isaac Newton, b. 1848; d. 1896
- c. John J. W.
- d. Nancy W.
- e. Mary
- f. Benjamin
- iv. Margaret, b. 28 July 1811; m. James Pope
- v. Courtney, b. 1 Apr. 1813; m. Erastus B. Duncan, a Methodist minister.
- vi. Helen, b. 10 Apr. 1815; died unmarried.
- vii. John James, b. 17 Jan. 1817; lived at Ozark, Ark.
- viii. Emily, b. 3 Dec. 1818; m. Royal T. Wheeler, of Austin, Texas.
- 8. ix. Martin Kidder, b. 1 May 1822.

(6) JAMES VOLNEY⁵ WALKER, (David,⁴ George,³ Jacob,² George,¹), was born 6 Aug. 1799; died Aug. 1855, Logan Co., Ky.; married Susan Howard McLean, (daughter of Ephriam and Elizabeth (Byars) McLean), b. 3 April 1803; d. 1854.

Children of James Volney and Susan, surname WALKER:

- i. Mary Barbour, b. 1822; d. 1899; m. Benjamin Pegram.
- Children, surname PEGRAM:
- a. David S., b. James, c. Susan, d. Catherine,
 - e. Francis, f. Martha.
 - 9. ii. Jefferson Andrew, b. 1824.
 - iii. John, b. 1826; d. 1889; m. (1) Sallie Carr; m. (2) Rhoda Harvey. A son, surname WALKER:
 - a. E. M. McLean, who married Lena Cato, and they have sons: Jack Walker and Joseph Walker.
 - iv. Ephriam McLean, b. 1828; d. 1861; m. Marie Louise McLean, b. 1828; d. 1896.
 - 10. v. James David, b. 13 Dec. 1830.

(7) DAVID⁵ WALKER, (Jacob Wythe,⁴ George,³ Jacob,² George¹), was born 19 Feb. 1806, Todd Co., Ky.; d. 30 Sept. 1879, Fayetteville, Ark.; m. 31 Jan. 1833, in Kentucky, to Jane Lewis Washington, (daughter of Whiting and Rebecca (Smith) Washington), b. 1813; d. 1847.

David Walker came to Fayetteville from Kentucky, in October 1830. He was a lawyer and also a large landholder. Later he was Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court; President of the Secession Convention of 1861, and Judge Advocate with the rank of Colonel, in the Confederate Army.

Children of David and Jane, surname WALKER:

- i. Jacob Wythe, b. 2 Feb. 1834; d. 1863, as result of wounds received in battle of Jenkins Ferry.
- ii. Charles Whiting, b. 24 Dec. 1835; d. 7 Jan. 1924; m. 26 Sept. 1867 to Serena Jernigan, (dau. of C.L. Jernigan).
Children, surname WALKER:
 - a. Nannie, m. Dr. G. A. Warren, of Black Rock, Ark.
 - b. Louisa, m. P.C. Wickersham, moved to California.
 - c. Jane Lewis, m. (1) Walter Reece; m. (2) John Tillman, Jr., of Oklahoma.
- iii. Mary, b. 1837; d. 1910; m. James David Walker (see his record for issue).
- iv. Edmund Hawkins, b. 1840; d. 1914; m. Susan Pegram.
Children, surname WALKER:
 - a. John, b. Jane, c. Mary, d. Benjamin, e. Wythe
- v. Nancy, b. 1842; d. 1910; m. Charles Buckner.
- vi. David, b. 1847; m. Roberta Buckner. They had two daughters.

(8) MARTIN KIDDER⁵ WALKER, (Jacob Wythe⁴ George,³ Jacob², George¹), was born 1 May 1822, in Ky.; d. 18 Jan. 1889, Benton Co., Ark.; m. 10 Feb. 1857, to Ann Van Winkle, b. 4 Feb. 1841; d. 12 Feb. 1920. He was a prominent educator in Benton County, Arkansas.

Children of Martin Kidder and Ann, surname WALKER:

- i. Mary, b. 5 Jan. 1858; d. 14 Feb. 1939; m. John Samuel Pile who died 14 April 1928.
- ii. Tempy, b. 17 Feb. 1860; d. 26 March 1940; m. 4 March 1884 to John Newton Tillman, who died 9 March 1929.
Children, surname TILLMAN:
 - a. John Walker, b. 16 June 1886
 - b. Frederick Allen, b. 1 June 1889
 - c. Kathleen, b. 7 May 1892; d. 17 Nov. 1955.
- iii. Nancy, b. 27 Jan. 1862; d. 14 Oct. 1940; m. 15 April 1880 to Joel Wilson Kimmins. Children, surname KIMMINS:
 - a. Mattie Elizabeth, b. 1881; d. 1887
 - b. Lucille, b. 26 Apr. 1883; m. 24 Dec. 1903 to John W. Nance
 - c. Russell Rano Walker, b. 1888; d. 1916
 - d. Dora, b. 1889; d. 1909; m. Arthur C. Mayes

iv. Emily, b. 3 April 1864; d. 4 Dec. 1943; m. 6 Nov. 1883 to William Ackman Hall, d. 1 April 1906.

Children, surname HALL:

- a. Lena Nora, b. 8 Feb. 1887; d. 4 Nov. 1918; m. Lewis Franklin Owens.
- b. Walter LaFayette, b. 26 Dec. 1888; d. 3 Nov. 1954; m. Marie Clark.
- c. Oscar Theodore, b. 31 Aug. 1891; m. Wanda Doris Blakey.
- d. William Ackman, Jr., b. 11 Nov. 1894.
- e. Ross Valdamar, b. 1 July 1897.

v. Calvin, b. 5 June 1866; d. 29 June 1945; m. 16 Nov. 1904 to Mary Weaver. Children, surname WALKER:

- a. Dorothy Joanna, b. 19 Aug. 1905
- b. Martin Lowery, b. 2 Feb. 1908
- c. Richard Lee, b. 19 Feb. 1916
- d. Jack Harold, b. 24 Oct. 1918

vi. Susan, b. 27 Sept. 1868; d. 26 Feb. 1941; m. 20 Aug. 1886 to Hugh Kingston Shelton. Children, surname SHELTON:

- a. Agnes Dean, b. 3 Jan. 1889; d. 20 April 1953; m. 8 Oct. 1908 to Zena Lytton Reagan.
- b. Earl Deaver, b. 12 Oct. 1890; m. Eva Ewing Worthington.
- c. Martin Lynn, b. 4 June 1894; drafted Dec. 1917; killed in action 28 May 1918.
- d. Thayer Ewing, b. 27 April 1899; m. Alice Kinney.

vii. Jacob Wythe, b. 18 April 1871; d. 13 Feb. 1946; m. Lena Williams. Children, surname WALKER:

- a. Elmo Earl, b. 19 Dec. 1898; d. 1956; m. Gertrude Gillette
- b. John Wythe, b. 25 Nov. 1914; d. 4 Jan. 1943

viii. Thomas Jefferson, b. 6 Oct. 1873; d. 8 Oct. 1946; m. Florence Carpenter. Children, surname WALKER:

- a. Catherine Louise, b. 29 May 1908; m. Fred L. Bedford.

ix. Sophia, b. 26 Sept. 1876; d. 10 July 1926. Unmarried. Teacher.

x. Allie, b. 13 July 1879; d. 7 Nov. 1898.

xi. Anna, b. 12 Jan. 1882; living 1956. Unmarried. Retired teacher.

(9) JEFFERSON ANDREW⁶ WALKER, (James Volney,⁵ David⁴, George,³ Jacob², George¹), was b. 1824. He m. Caroline Browder, who d. 1895. He was a physician in Ky., before going to Calif. in 1854. He visited in Fayetteville about 1897.

Children of Jefferson Andrew and Caroline, surname WALKER:

i. John T., who m. Jennie Riger. Children, surname WALKER

- a. James Volney, who had no issue.
- b. Riger, who married Margaret Groghan and had children: Margaret, Elizabeth, and Richard Riger.
- c. John, who married Pauline Lay and had children: Attala, Pauline, and Jane.

ii. James Volney, who m. Bowden Riger. Children, surname WALKER:

- a. Mary
- b. Richard David, who operates a lumber company in Mobile, Ala. He married May Threefoot, and had children: Frances, Vivian, and Richard David.

(10) JAMES DAVID⁶ WALKER, (James Volney,⁵ David,⁴ George,³ Jacob,² George¹) was born 13 Dec. 1830; d. 17 Oct. 1906, Fayetteville, Ark.; m. 4 Dec. 1856 to Mary Walker, (dau. of David and Jane Lewis (Washington) Walker, b. 21 Dec. 1837; d. 31 March 1910.

He was a lawyer and served as Solicitor General and also United States Senator from Arkansas.

Children of David and Mary, surname WALKER:

1. Susan Howard, b. 8 Sept. 1857; d. 1939; unmarried.
- ii. James Volney, b. 1859; d. 1933; m. Nancy Cravens.
Their only child was: Randall Walker.
- iii. Jennie, died aged three.
- iv. Nannie, died aged six months.
11. v. Jacob Wythe, b. 26 Jan. 1866
- vi. Jack, b. 1869; d. 1923; unmarried.
- vii. David, b. 1872; d. 1936; unmarried.
- viii. George, b. 1874; d. 1888.
- ix. Mary Norma, b. 1877; d. 1892

(11) JACOB WYTHER⁷ WALKER, (James David,⁶ James Volney⁵, David,⁴ George³, Jacob,² George¹), was b. 26 Jan. 1866; d. 22 Dec. 1928; m. 20 Oct. 1897 to Mary Byrnes, (dau. of Albert M. and Mary (McCoy) Byrnes).

Children of Jacob Wythe and Mary, surname WALKER:

- i. James Byrnes, b. 1898; m. Virginia Keezey. They have a daughter:
 - a. Doreen Virginia, b. 1924
- ii. Jacob Wythe, b. 27 Sept. 1901; m. Frances Stone.
Children, surname WALKER:
 - a. Prudence
 - b. Jacob Wythe
- iii. Richard Courtney, b. 1909; m. Winifred Henry.
Children, surname WALKER:
 - a. Susan
 - b. Nancy
 - c. Laurie

"On the first ballot: Houston 17, Washington 16, Smith 15, Cook 4, George 4. The two lowest were dropped, and on the second ballot: Washington 19, Smith 19, Huston 18. The vote was exactly the same on the third ballot, and the election was postponed until the next day. On the next day, the fourth ballot gave Huston 28, Washington 16, Smith 16. Blakemore voted for Washington.

"The fifth ballot gave Huston 36, Washington 20, Smith 4, and Huston was declared elected. Those voting for Washington were: Bertrand, Blakemore, Cummins, Clark, Davies of Chicot, Buckner, Dodd, Davis of Desha, Dorris, Egner, Gries, Gaither, Littell, Gibson, Larremore, McGarrah, Mock, Neely, Robinson, and Mr. Speaker. So Walker must have been mistaken about Blakemore's desertion of Washington. The references are on pages 247-250 of the 1840 House Journal."

16

This letter was evidently written from Little Rock during the last (1835) session of the Territorial legislature. It would be interesting to know the name of the Little Rock artist who painted the miniature portrait of David Walker.

18

Cupid, mentioned in this letter, was a slave originally owned by the Hawkins family, grandparents of Judge David Walker.

19

Crooked Creek, where the Walkers and Springs were vacationing when this letter was written, was in what was then Carroll County. Mrs. Spring was the wife of a Fort Smith lawyer. Evidently the two lawyers, Spring and Walker, had attended court at Carrollton and were then at the Searcy county seat, 5 miles west of present-day Marshall. Mrs. Walker's description of the springs in the second paragraph of her letter fits the site of present-day Eureka Springs.

An interesting thing about this letter is that it bears on the back in Mary Walker's handwriting: "The only letter I ever received from my mother." Her mother wrote the letter in 1844; she died in 1847.

20

Woodlawn was the Hawkins home in Kentucky where David Walker had lived with his grandparents for a time in his boyhood.

21

In this letter to his 10-year-old daughter, written by Judge Walker when on a visit to Kentucky, he attempts to discourage her from getting interested in music. But Mary became an accomplished musician, as can be seen in Letter No. 25. The piano that Judge Walker bought for his daughter nearly a century ago is now (1956) in the Wythe Walker home at Scarsdale, New York, and is being used by David Walker's great-great-granddaughter.

The Miss Sawyer and Miss James mentioned in the last sentence of this letter were the teachers of the Fayetteville Female Seminary, the famous early school that Judge David Walker helped found and which he supported throughout its existence.

David Walker's brother, Martin Kidder Walker, was evidently visiting their sister Emily (Mrs. Judge Wheeler) in Texas. Judge Walker's method of sending money -- tearing the bills in half and sending the halves at different times -- was a common practice in early days.

Matthew Leeper married Lucy Washington. He later had an adventurous career as Indian Agent in Texas.

The "Aunts" mentioned in the third paragraph of this letter were three sisters of Judge David Walker: Aunt Margaret was Mrs. James Pope; Aunt Courtney was Mrs. Erastus B. Duncan; Aunt Lucy was Mrs. Adam Carnahan.

The Rutherford-Butler wedding mentioned in this letter was one of Fayetteville's big social events of 1854. Robert Rutherford had just been graduated from Arkansas College in Fayetteville, and Sallie Butler had just finished her schooling at the Female Seminary.

A truly home-sick letter from 17-year-old Mary Walker, who was then attending school in Kentucky. It was probably her first Christmas and her first birthday (December 21) away from home.

Charles Whiting Walker wrote this letter to his father, Judge David Walker, from Tennessee where he was attending school. He mentions visiting Woodlawn and Green Ridge in Kentucky. Woodlawn was the home of the Hawkins family and Green Ridge was the home of the Washington family. An undated clipping in the Walker archives, evidently from a Kentucky historical magazine, reads as follows:

"Another home, now but a memory, was Green Ridge, called sometimes the 'Mount Vernon of Kentucky', founded by Whiting Washington, built on the brow of a ridge overlooking the fertile fields of south Logan, where his brother Fairfax and his nephew John also owned fine farms. Here in this old brick mansion, one of the finest and most hospitable in the state, the master lived and died and was buried under a slab now sunken, but still bearing its 96-year-old inscription, near the ruins of the old house, whose site is now overgrown with vines and trees. The family had their peculiarities, one tradition told of them being that when they went visiting in their cumbersome carriages, they took along, not only their colored valets and maids, as was the custom, but a plentiful supply as well of their finest bed and house linen for their own use, creating quite a stir in the neighborhood when it was known that 'the Washingtons were coming visiting'. Reverses met them at last, and one Mrs. Washington, a very cultured and lovely woman, taught a select girls' school, part of the old-time discipline being that the girls were required to run half a mile to a spring and back before breakfast to give them an appetite. Judge David Walker of the Appellate Court of Arkansas, married one of the daughters of the house; others married into prominent families in Tennessee and the West, some remaining home unmarried. People of courtly manners and fine mental attainment., they became teachers, to whom many owed part of their education. Finally the cultured ante-bellum life passed and Green Ridge and its allied farms live only in the traditions of the County."

Emily Walker Wheeler's firebrand letter from her home in Austin, Texas, drew a sharp rejoinder from her brother, Judge David Walker, who reminded her that he had three sons, a son-in-law, and a brother in the Confederate army. The letters were probably written early in 1861.

Mrs. Mary Walker writes to her husband, Col. J.D.Walker of the 6th Infantry, C.S.A., shortly after the first actions in which Arkansas troops were engaged, in southwest Missouri. His answer (Letter No.31) was written a week later, three days after the battle of Wilson's Creek. The letters reveal that Judge David Walker was present when his sons underwent their baptism of fire. He was 55 at the time.

"Underwood" is believed to have been the name of the David Walker home on the West Fork of White River, 2 miles southeast of Fayetteville. Judge Walker evidently had stayed in Springfield, Mo., after the Confederate victory at Wilson's Creek, instead of returning home, as suggested in his son-in-law's letter of three days earlier (No.31).

It is not clear how Col. J.D.Walker fell into the hands of the Federals. The family account is that he was home in Fayetteville on sick leave when he was captured. The letters show that he was paroled in St.Louis and returned to Arkansas a year later. This delay is explained in Letter No.37. He then accompanied his family to Texas and took no further active part in the war.

George Keith Walker (1809-1891), the writer of this letter, was the youngest son of David Walker (1763-1820) and Mary Barbour Walker, and hence was a cousin of Judge David Walker of Fayetteville to whom the letter is addressed. George K. Walker was born in Kentucky but moved to Florida, which state he served as Representative in Congress. He was Governor of Florida in 1866 but was removed from office by the Reconstruction Act.

The opening sentence of this letter was the first intimation I had that Judge David Walker of Fayetteville had visited Richmond during the war. A query addressed to Wythe Walker of New York brought me a dozen pages of penciled notes that David Walker had written while en-route to and during his war-time visit in the Confederate capital. These notes, difficult to decipher and in places almost illegible -- but most interesting -- appear in the Washington County Historical Society's booklet, THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JUDGE DAVID WALKER.

It is believed that this letter, as well as Nos. 41,42,43,44,45,46 and 47, were sent to Corsicana, Texas, where the Walkers were refugeeing during the last year of the war. David Walker's letters (Nos. 40, 41, 43 and 44) were written from Camden, Ark., where he was serving as Judge of the Military Court, with the rank of Colonel, C.S.A. Although Judge Walker's letters seem overly optimistic, when read from the vantage point of 90 years later, they do reveal his devotion to the Confederate cause and his clear-headed thinking about the future.

This is the last letter from Capt. J. Wythe Walker in the collection of Walker family letters. He was mortally wounded in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry just three months later.

In the last paragraph of this letter, Judge David Walker tells his son-in-law, J.D. Walker, that he has subscribed for the Telegraph for him. The Telegraph was undoubtedly the Washington (Arkansas) Telegraph, the only newspaper in the state that did not suspend publication during the war. Like the Vicksburg Citizen, it was printed part of the time on the back of wallpaper.

Capt. J. Wythe Walker was wounded in the battle of Jenkin's Ferry on April 30, 1864. He was taken to Tulip, Arkansas -- now a vanished town but in 1860 a town of considerable wealth and importance. His father was summoned from Camden. Both his father, Judge David Walker, and his brother, Lt. White Walker, were with him until he died -- on May 21, 1864. His body was brought to Fayetteville after the war and interred in the family cemetery. The formal announcement of the funeral, printed in script type -- a copy of which is in the Walker archives -- reads as follows:

Funeral Notice

The remains of Capt. Jacob Wythe Walker will be buried at the Family Burying Ground, East of Fayetteville, on Sunday, the 8th inst., at 3 o'clock P.M.

The procession will move from the Residence of Judge J.D. Walker.

The friends and acquaintances of the deceased are respectfully invited to attend.

Fayetteville, March 6th, 1868.

This letter contains news from home. Descendants of the Freyschlags, Alf Wilsons, and Dukes still live in Fayetteville (1956). Tuck Smith, mentioned in this letter, was the noted guerilla leader. The place where he captured the 60 horses was undoubtedly the David Walker farm on West Fork, now the Gene Goff place (1956). Brooks was Col. William H. Brooks of Fayetteville, a Confederate officer whose brother Edward was a Colonel in the Union army. Stirman was Col. E.I. "Ras" Stirman of Fayetteville, who became Fayetteville's first post-war Mayor.

It has not been possible to identify the writer or the recipient of this letter. The writer probably was a woman member of the household of Joseph Walker, one-time governor of Louisiana. Joseph was the son of George Walker who was a brother of Jacob Wythe Walker the elder (who died in Fayetteville in 1838). This would account for the writer of the letter speaking of "Cousin David" and "dear Mary and Martin", all of whom were children of Jacob Wythe Walker and Nancy Hawkins Walker.

Anna Pope of Fort Smith, Ark., for whom the writer of this letter shows such concern, was the daughter of Judge David Walker's sister Margaret (Mrs. James Pope).

Whiting Washington was 44 years old when he wrote this letter. He died in Fayetteville in 1896 and is buried in the Walker family burying ground on East Mountain.

In this letter Judge David Walker expresses a special fondness for his grandson, Jacob Wythe -- namesake of Judge Walker's own son Jacob Wythe who was killed during the war. The letter was written from Little Rock where David Walker was then serving (1866-1868) as Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

This letter was written while Judge David Walker was enroute to Boston as a delegate from Washington County in the interests of the proposed Arkansas Western Railway. His report of this trip was made at a "Railroad Convention" held in Fayetteville August 15, 1870. The entire report appears in THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF JUDGE DAVID WALKER, published by the Washington County Historical Society.

David Walker, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, takes time from his duties to write a letter to four of his grandsons -- the children of his daughter Mary.

Whiting Washington was Judge David Walker's brother-in-law. He was the last of the Warner Washington line. Warner Washington was a first cousin of General George Washington. (See Note No.4) Whiting Washington, in his latter days, lived with his kinsman, Whiting Walker, in the old Tebbetts House on East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, and is remembered by many of our older citizens. He is buried in the Walker cemetery on East Mountain. Wythe Walker says that researchers in the Washington genealogy did not know until recently where Whiting Washington was buried or what happened to his brother Charles Henry. The latter died in Dardanelle, Ark., after his return from the Gold Rush.

Judge David Walker had evidently written to Kentucky for information about his mother's family (Hawkins). He was 70 years old and was probably interested in accumulating family history. He had already written the Walker story ten years earlier.

These letters were written from Washington, D.C., where J.D. Walker was serving as Senator from Arkansas. His term in the Senate was from 1879 to 1885.

NOTES on the WALKER FAMILY LETTERS

by W. J. Lemke

75

This was one of several letters that David Walker, who had recently (1830) come to Fayetteville, Arkansas, wrote to his father in Scottsville, Kentucky, that resulted in his parents removing to Arkansas. This letter was accompanied by a hand-drawn map of Washington County, showing the physical features of the county and the location of Fayetteville and Cane Hill. The map was reproduced in FLASHBACK, Vol.IV, No.3 (May 1954), publication of the Washington County Historical Society.

Matthew Lyon, mentioned in the fifth paragraph of this letter, had come to Arkansas as Indian factor at Spadra near present-day Clarksville, after an exciting political career in Vermont, Washington and Kentucky. Lyon, whom the Walkers may have known in Kentucky, died in 1832, shortly after his unsuccessful race for Congress from Arkansas. He was buried at Spadra, where David Walker visited his grave. His remains were later removed to Kentucky.

The original of this letter is the property of the Washington County Historical Society.

76

This letter was written in Little Rock while David Walker was attending the Convention that framed the Constitution under which Arkansas was admitted to statehood. He was a delegate from Washington County. Bean and Whinery, mentioned in the letter, were Mark Bean and Abram Whinery, also delegates from Washington County.

The original of this letter is in the possession of Miss Gertrude Stockard and was published in Vol.I No.6 (November 1951) of FLASHBACK, publication of the Washington County Historical Society.

77

Judge Walker was in Little Rock serving as Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court when he wrote this letter to his mother-in-law in Fayetteville. The letter refers to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Leeper from Fayetteville to their new home in Texas where Leeper was destined for an exciting career as Indian Agent. Mrs. Leeper was Lucy Washington, sister of Judge Walker's wife.

78

This is a birthday letter written by Judge Walker, then in Little Rock on the Supreme Court bench, to his oldest son Wythe. Pride and affection are evident in the father's confident words. The letter begins and ends with instructions on the management of affairs at home.

While this is not a "family" letter, it merits inclusion in the Walker correspondence because of the sad event that provoked it. William Quesenbury of Fayetteville was a close friend of Judge Walker. Quesenbury had attracted state-wide notice when he edited the Fayetteville Arkansian before the War. He had served under Albert Pike in the War with Mexico. During the Civil War the Quesenburys were refugees in Texas. The David and Mary mentioned in the postscript were Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Walker, who were living in Corsicana, Texas, in 1864.

It is evident from this letter that Judge Walker's son Edmund (Ned) was managing the Walker farm near Fayetteville while the Judge was serving on the Supreme Court bench in Little Rock. "Underwood" was probably the family's name for the farm and brick house on White River, 3 miles southeast of Fayetteville, now (1956) known as the Gene Goff place. Ned Walker, 26 years old, had been farming the land the Judge owned near Ozark on the Arkansas River.

This letter, written in 1866, suggests the difficulties that Southern gentlewomen had in adjusting themselves to changed conditions after the War. Mary Walker was 29 years old when she wrote this letter and was caring for three small children -- Sue, Vol, and baby Wythe then eleven months old.

"Uncle Martin", mentioned in the letter, was Martin Kidder Walker. He was Judge David Walker's brother, and a well-known pioneer school teacher in Washington and Benton counties. His "industrious and persevering wife" was Ann VanWinkle, daughter of Peter VanWinkle, noted early-day miller.

The "David" named in the second paragraph was Mary Walker's brother. The "David" in the fourth paragraph was her husband, James David Walker but called "David" by the family. He later became U.S. Senator from Arkansas.

Nancy Walker was 24 years old when her father wrote her this homily on Sabbath observance. Supreme Court business kept the Judge in Little Rock during the Christmas holidays and he was probably depressed that he could not be in Fayetteville with his family. Uncertain river transportation, plus the horseback ride over the mountains from Van Buren to Fayetteville, made visits home impossible.

David was 20 years old when he wrote this letter to his father in Little Rock. The teachers whom he mentions were James R. Pettigrew, who taught in Fayetteville's Arkansas College before the War, and James Mitchell, former teacher in Cane Hill College. Mitchell was later to become a member of the University faculty in Fayetteville and still later editor and publisher of the Arkansas Democrat in Little Rock.

Charles Whiting Walker, 32 years old and a Confederate veteran, was handling his father's legal business while Judge Walker was serving on the state Supreme Court in Little Rock.

The letter, written two years after the end of the War, indicates that Fayetteville, although more fortunate than most of the state, did not entirely escape Reconstruction troubles. This is the only reference I know of, of two companies of Federal soldiers here as late as 1867. Their camp was on what is now East Spring street. The "brick barracks" were never built. "Capt. Reed" was George W.M. Reed, who had been a Union officer in the War and in 1867 was County Clerk. The "Radical Press" that C. W. Walker mentions was established in 1867 but it was not "conducted" by Col. (M. LaRue) Harrison -- a Federal officer whom the Walkers thoroughly disliked. Fred W. Allsopp in his "History of the Arkansas Press" says:

"In 1867 a Mr. Brown established a Republican newspaper called the Radical, at Fayetteville. 'Radical' Brown was a Union soldier, but beyond that and the fact that the town was not a healthful place for what was called a 'black Republican sheet', little seems to be recorded of him. Soon after the Radical commenced publication, R.C. Brown established a Democratic newspaper called the Fayetteville Times. It was not long before the two Browns became involved in a quarrel and the latter fought and whipped the editor of the Radical. Shortly afterward the name of the Times was changed to the Fayetteville Arkansan, while the Radical was purchased by Bard & Richardson and became the Mountain Echo."

Mrs. Spring, mentioned in this letter, was the wife of a Fort Smith lawyer. The Springs were close friends of Judge and Mrs. Walker, and Judge Walker's notebooks from 1845 to 1860 contain frequent references to them. They evidently settled in Mississippi after the War.

"Serena", mentioned in paragraph 4, was Serene Jernigan, who had married C.W. ("White") Walker three months before this letter was written.

The reference to the dental troubles of Judge Walker and his daughter Mary (Mrs. J.D. Walker) suggests that Fayetteville did not have a resident dentist in 1867. An earlier dentist, who advertised in the Fayetteville newspapers in the late 1850's, evidently did not return after the War.

Mollie L. Walker, the writer of this letter, evidently was a descendant of the branch of the Walker family that settled in Missouri. (See Walker Genealogy in this book.) I believe that she was the daughter of Jacob Wythe Walker (born 1803) who served as State Treasurer of Missouri and who was the father of John G. Walker, Confederate general. He was an uncle of Judge David Walker of Fayetteville. This is the only letter from a Missouri Walker that I have seen. It seems the Fayetteville branch of the family did not keep close contact with their Missouri kin -- especially after the death of Judge David Walker.

The Walker brothers, Judge David and John J., owned considerable farm land in Franklin County as well as city lots in Ozark, the county seat. Naturally, they were greatly interested in the route of the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, then building. John J. Walker, the writer of this letter, lived and died at Ozark. He was never married.

88, 89, 90, 91, 92

These five letters were written to Judge Walker in Little Rock where he was serving his third term on the Supreme Court bench -- by his granddaughter, Susan Howard Walker. Sue, then 17 years old, was attending Dr. H.R. Welch's private school at Cane Hill. Her brother Vol was also in school at Cane Hill, probably in Cane Hill College.

93

The reference to the furniture which Judge Walker planned to buy in Little Rock suggests that the Judge was furnishing the new house which he had built on East Mountain in Fayetteville and had given to his daughter Mary and her husband, J.D. Walker. The handsome brick home, completed in 1878, is still standing and is now the home of Miss Ina Knerr (1956). (See Letter No. 95)

94

"Mr. Borden", mentioned in this letter, was Benjamin J. Borden, noted Arkansas editor and educator. He taught Mental and Moral Philosophy in the Arkansas Industrial University in 1876-1877. There was faculty trouble in the spring of 1877 but Reynolds and Thomas' "History of the University of Arkansas" does not name Borden as one of the dissidents.

Gen. Royston was Grandison Royston of Washington, Ark., and a member of the A.I.U. board. He had come to Fayetteville as a fledgeling lawyer shortly after David Walker came, but Royston moved on to Hempstead County. The "General" was a courtesy title.

95

This letter indicates that the J.D. Walkers (future Senator) did not move into the brick home on East Mountain until 1878. The house, still standing (1956), was erected by Contractor Mayes, mentioned in the letter. The Blackmer, to whom Mrs. Walker "gave the money", was undoubtedly S.H. Blackmer, the man who kilned the bricks for many Fayetteville buildings of 80 years ago.

96

The "80 acres of land in Johnson County" was a part of Judge Walker's donation to secure the location of the state university for Washington County. He gave a total of 240 acres.

Judge Walker was enroute from Fayetteville to Little Rock for the opening of the session of the Supreme Court. He had evidently stopped in Ozark to see his son Ned and brother John. The letter indicates that the railroad was in operation in 1878 from Ozark to Little Rock.

David was 6 years old when he wrote this letter to his grandfather. As usual, his mother helped him with the letter and filled up the page.

Mr. Vaulx was the Rev. J. J. Vaulx, who was pastor of the Episcopal Church in Fayetteville from 1876 to 1902. He conducted a private school in Fayetteville for several years.

Continued references in these letters to Judge Walker's illness indicate that he was not in good health during his last term of service in Little Rock as Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. He returned to his home in Fayetteville in April 1878, after a stop of several weeks with relatives in Ozark. His granddaughter Sue went down to help care for him. Judge Walker died the following year, but his death (Sept. 30, 1879) was the result of an accident when he was thrown from his carriage while attending the Washington County Fair.

J.D.Walker wrote these letters from Washington, where he was serving as Senator from Arkansas. His term in the Senate was from 1879 to 1885. (See also Letters Nos. 69, 70, 71, 73 and 74.)

Senator Walker had his son Wythe come to Washington to work in his office during the last months of his term. Wythe, then 19 years old, wrote to his mother back home in Fayetteville shortly after his arrival in Washington. His mother answered immediately. (Letter No. 106)

George and Norma were the two youngest children. George was 11 and Norma 8 when their mother wrote this letter to their brother Wythe in Washington.

"Col. Boudinot", mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the letter, was E.C.Boudinot, an old friend of the family who was then practicing law in Washington in partnership with Robert Ward Johnson, former U.S. and Confederate Senator from Arkansas. Boudinot knew the Walkers from his Fayetteville days, when he was editor of the Fayetteville Sentinel. "Mr. Garland" was A. H. Garland, senior Senator from Arkansas and colleague of Senator J.D.Walker. "Col. Peel" was Congressman Sam W. Peel of Bentonville, Ark.



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